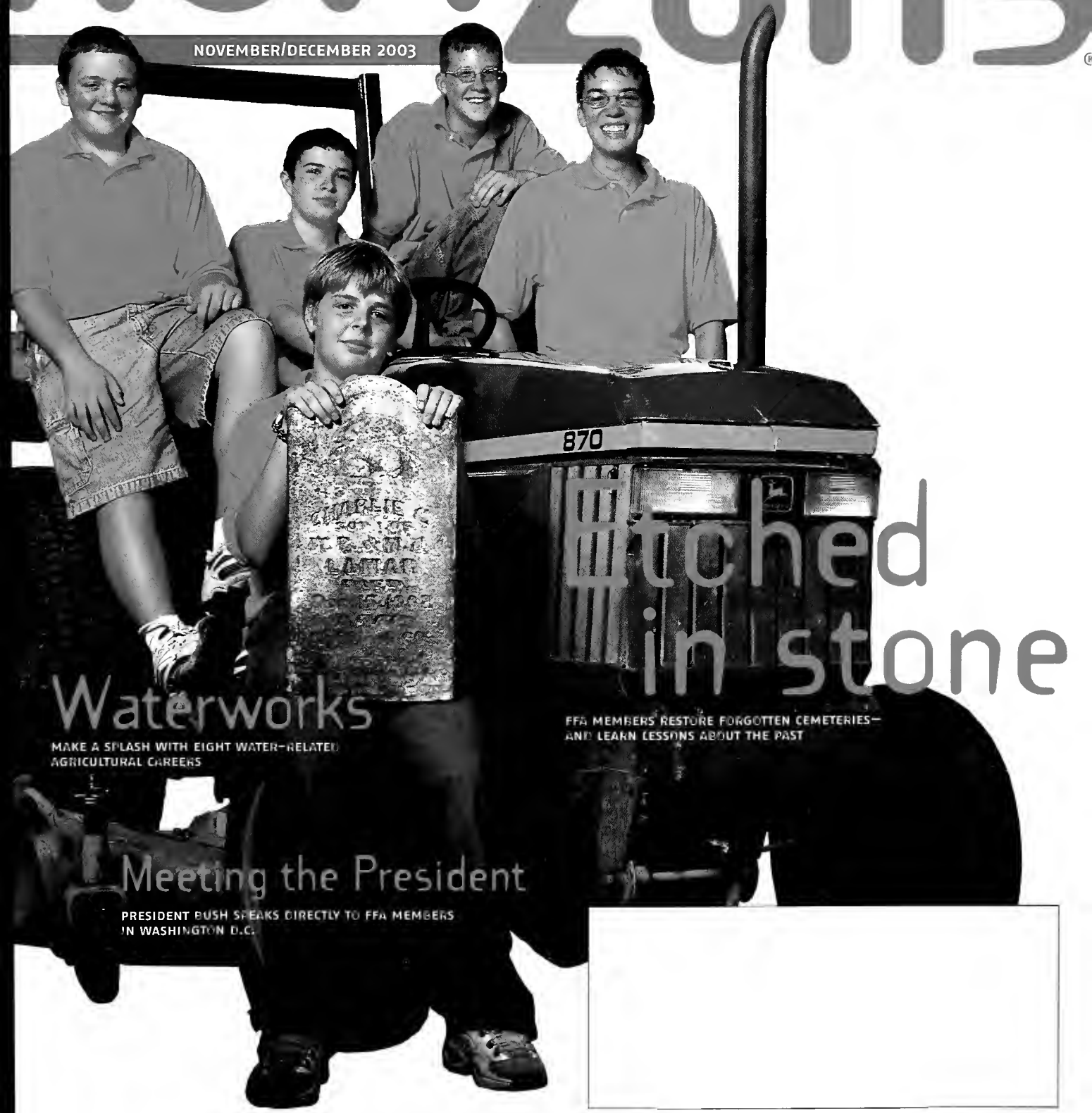
FFA new horizons

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2003



Waterworks

MAKE A SPLASH WITH EIGHT WATER-RELATED AGRICULTURAL CAREERS

#tched in stone

FFA MEMBERS RESTORE FORGOTTEN CEMETERIES—AND LEARN LESSONS ABOUT THE PAST

Meeting the President

PRESIDENT BUSH SPEAKS DIRECTLY TO FFA MEMBERS IN WASHINGTON D.C.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2003 VOLUME 52 NUMBER 2

new horizons

what's up

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COVER STORY

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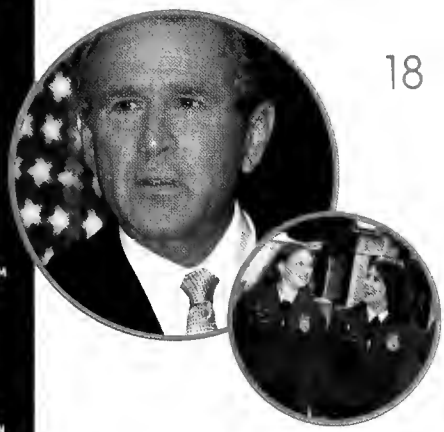
Members of the Windsor FFA Chapter in Missouri are restoring local cemeteries. It's a community service project where the students learn valuable skills in landscaping, operating machinery and interacting with wildlife—but it's also an experience that has opened their eyes to the cultural history of their hometown, which, they have learned, includes slavery and racial segregation.

FEATURES

12 Waterworks

H20 is what makes life—and agriculture—possible here on Earth. Many agricultural careers have direct involvement with water, so here are eight ways you can splash your way to a promising career in the global food, fiber and natural resources systems. The jobs include: forest hydrologist, marine mammal trainer, agricultural plumber, limnologist, barge captain, irrigation technician, hatchery manager and agricultural engineer.



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National and state FFA officers, in Washington D.C. this summer for the National FFA State Presidents' Conference, got the opportunity to meet with President Bush and Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman. Also learn about leadership opportunities the National FFA Organization offers each summer in the nation's capital.

important dates to remember

DECEMBER 1

WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (WLC) APPLICATIONS DUE POSTMARKED TO THE NATIONAL FFA CENTER

DECEMBER 29-JANUARY 1

NATIONAL FFA CENTER CLOSED

FIND MORE INFORMATION AND ADDITIONAL DEADLINES AT WWW.FFA.ORG

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visit: www.ffa.org

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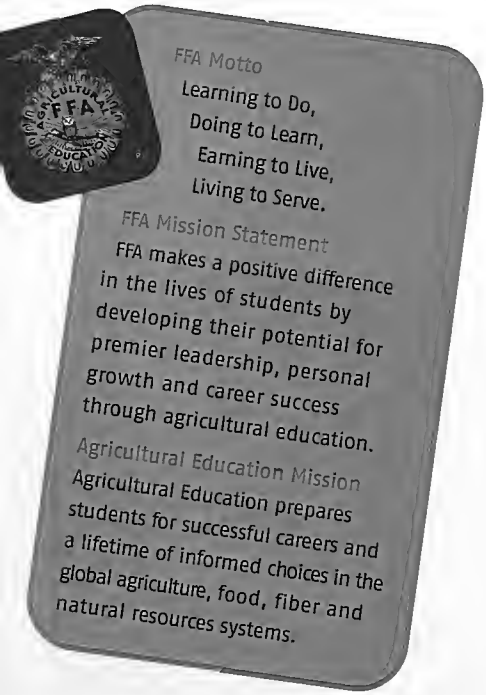

FFA Motto

Learning to Do,
Doing to Learn,
Earning to Live,
Living to Serve.

FFA Mission Statement

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Agricultural Education Mission

Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems.

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J.J. Jones

central region vice president

How has FFA helped you grow as a person?
Growing up in a small town, I had a lot of opportunities but, at the same time, activities were limited. FFA gave me the chance to participate in everything from public speaking to the national chorus. I could travel 20 miles down the road to a livestock judging event, or visit a German dairy farm 4,000 miles away.

Why is it important for FFA members to learn about leadership?
No matter what you do in life, you will benefit from some form of leadership. It doesn't matter if your want to farm or ranch, run your own company, work for someone or stay home to raise a family—you will still need communication, teamwork and time management skills. Even in our non-professional lives, we use these skills in FFA, church and other situations.

Has goal-setting been valuable for you?
Yes! I set goals every day, for the small things—like what time I will get up in the morning—to the large ones—like being able to move back to northwest Kansas and continue to be involved in the beef industry.

Any advice for FFA members?
Continue to try new things in life. That way, you can find something you enjoy so much that you would do it for nothing—but then become so good at it that people will pay you to do it. As Ray Kroc, the visionary behind McDonald's, said, "When you're green you're growing, and when you're ripe you rot." ☆

timeline

- AGE 15
  - JOINED FFA
  - PARTICIPATED IN FFA CREED SPEAKING
  - LOST BID FOR FFA DISTRICT SENTINEL
  - WON FFA DISTRICT BEEF PRODUCTION PROFICIENCY
  - ELECTED FFA CHAPTER SECRETARY
  - ATTENDED FFA WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
- 17
  - ELECTED FFA CHAPTER VICE PRESIDENT
  - ELECTED FFA DISTRICT SECRETARY
  - NAMED KANSAS BEEF AMBASSADOR RUNNER-UP
- 18
  - DELEGATE AT NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION
  - ELECTED STATE FFA PRESIDENT
  - PARTICIPATED IN NATIONAL FFA CHORUS
- 21
  - ELECTED NATIONAL FFA WESTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

vitals

HOMETOWN: ATWOOD, KANSAS
AGE: 22
FFA CHAPTER: WAXAHACHIE FFA
ADVISOR: KURT DILLON
SAE: BEEF, FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION
EDUCATION: SENIOR, KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
MAJOR: ANIMAL SCIENCES AND INDUSTRY & BUSINESS
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BEST MOVIE YOU'VE SEEN LATELY: BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
BEST BOOK YOU'VE READ LATELY: THE PURPOSE-DRIVEN LIFE: WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR, BY RICK WARREN

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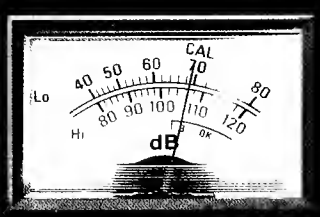

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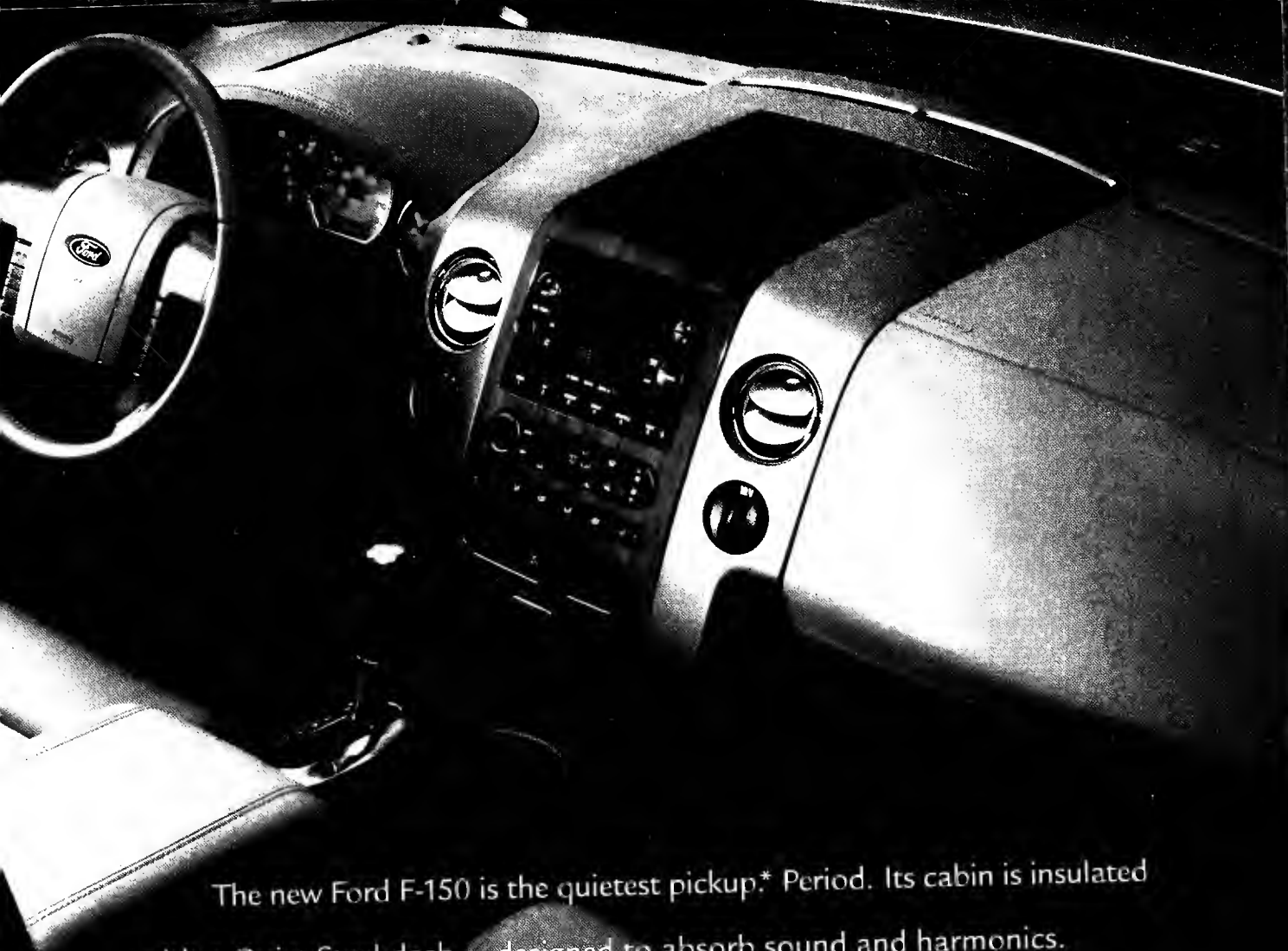

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Etched in stone

by Erich Gaukel

Members of the Windsor FFA Chapter in Missouri are restoring local cemeteries. It's a community service project where the students learn valuable skills in landscaping, operating machinery and interacting with wildlife—but it's also an experience that has opened their eyes to the cultural history of their hometown, which, they have learned, includes slavery and racial segregation.

Most high school agriculture shops are set up for fixing equipment, welding trailers and storing tools. At Windsor High School in the west central Missouri town of the same name, the shop has become a makeshift headstone factory.

Since the mid '90s, FFA chapter advisor Kevin Gnuschke and his students have volunteered several hours a month, restoring and maintaining five local cemeteries that date back to the 1800s. Without intervention by the Windsor FFA, there's a chance that these isolated, rural burial grounds might have been lost in weeds and forgotten by now.

The work at the cemeteries (which are grouped in close proximity to each other about ten miles outside of town) has given the students a project that, according to Gnuschke, "takes in the whole aspect of agriculture." Students use their horticulture skills for landscaping and their agricultural mechanics experience in operating and maintaining equipment. Plus, the students get to use their natural resources knowledge to identify wildlife. "There's not a time we go out that we don't see deer, turkeys or something," Gnuschke says.

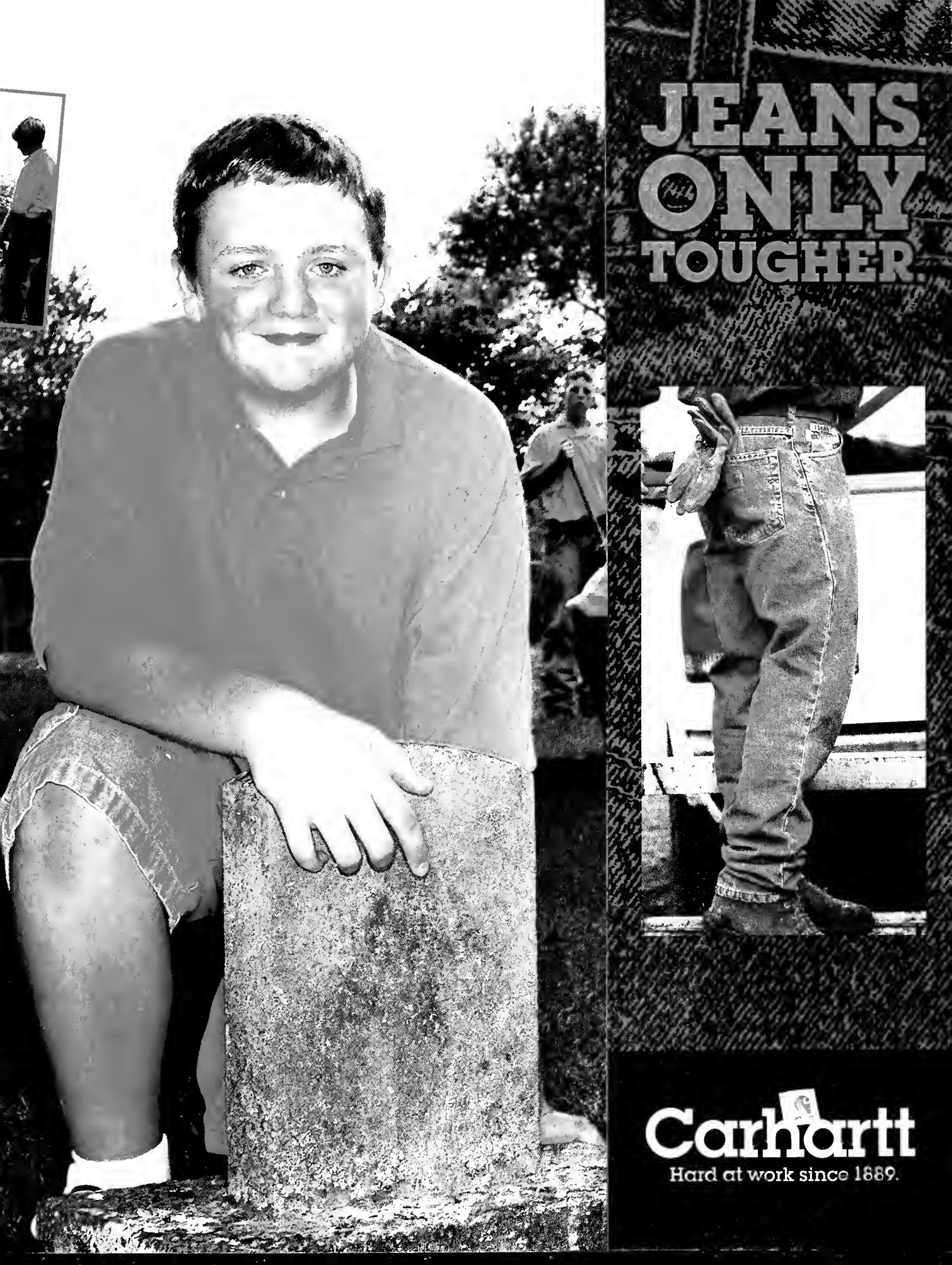
The physical work

"We mow, we weed-eat and we have done some burning because you could hardly see the tombstones," says Allie Terry, a senior who's been working on the cemetery project for two years. She says the volunteers each put in several hours a month, and they also perform fence repairs and reset fallen headstones.

In some cases, the Windsor FFA members craft new headstones to help identify graves marked crudely with rocks or bricks bearing initials of the deceased. But first, they consult the county's genealogy Internet database and interview living descendants of the buried. The information they find is used on the new headstones and passed on to the county's historical society so records can be updated.

To make the new headstones, Gnuschke says they start with a "very crude" 10- by 12-inch form made from plywood and two-by-fours. After pouring in concrete, they use plastic letters (they're really magnets—the same multi-colored ones little kids use to spell words on the refrigerator) to write the inscriptions. When the concrete dries, they use a screwdriver to remove the plastic letters. With some black paint applied to the engraved inscription, the result is a finished headstone.

Careful not to alter history, the FFA volunteers don't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Learning about soybeans can be fun.
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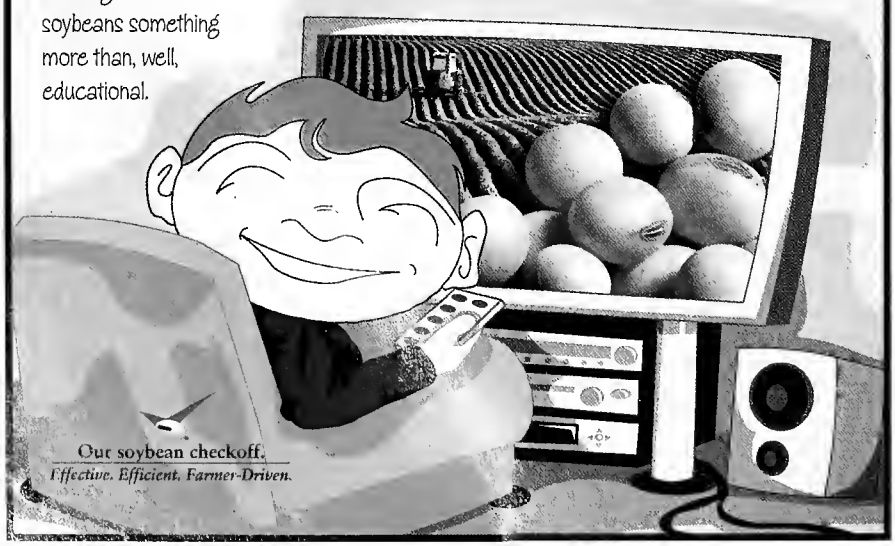
"Planting Seeds for the Future" is not your average educational video. It's a fun, upbeat and informative way to get the facts about your soybean checkoff, the people who drive it and the programs empowering growers across the country. From the Better Bean Initiative to new uses for soybeans, FFA students, just like you, ask and answer common questions. To get your free copy of "Planting Seeds for the Future," call 1-888-235-4332. And make learning about soybeans something more than, well, educational.



remove the old headstones, no matter their condition or lack of information. They simply place the new ones next to the ones already there.

History lesson

As she has become more involved in the project, Allie has learned a lot about local history, and not all of it is pleasant. For her, one of the most memorable moments in the project came at the Sardis South cemetery (also knows as Black Sardis cemetery). Unaware of the segregation of cemeteries in the 1800s, she admits, "I actually didn't know there was a cemetery like this even close to Windsor."

As Allie and the other Windsor FFA members found out, this cemetery was the final resting place for a number of slaves and their descendants. Slaves generally assumed the last names of the slave-owners who claimed ownership of them, and one of the most common last names found on the headstones at Sardis South is Avery. Within a couple of miles is the Avery Cemetery, where members of the slave-owning Avery family are buried.

Like other students, Allie has found herself drawn into the history that goes along with the restoration work. In fact, she and other members have written newspaper articles based on their research. She even made a presentation to an Optimists club meeting in nearby Sedalia to report the chapter's findings.

"They loved it," Allie says, adding that one of the club members even told her it was "awesome" that people her age wanted to learn the history and put forth the time and effort to get it done. The Windsor FFA members also recently gave a presentation of their research and restoration work to the local historical society.

Fright night?

So what's it like hanging out in secluded cemeteries on lonely county roads?

"This may sound kind of funny," Allie says, "but I love being out there because there is so much history. . . . It's fascinating to find out that these people lived around here."

"I like going out because it's therapy," Gnuschke says, noting the natural setting and wildlife encounters. But, he says, "I've been out once or twice when it's just getting

dark, and it's out in the country—way out—and the coyotes are howling. It can spook you." He says he never takes the students there in the evening "because it does get spooky."

So far, there have been no haunting experiences, but after researching obituaries of the deceased at the Hickory Ridge Cemetery they've been restoring, the Windsor FFA members found clues about how people lived in the early 20th century—and the dangers that went along with it.

Thomas W. Moore (1868-1928), according to the obituary, "was found dead in a well in the barn lot at his home in the Hickory Grove neighborhood, in the northeast part of the county. He had been drawing water for his horses, and it is thought he became overbalanced and fell in the well."

Virgil L. Moore (1901–1916), a report states, "was almost instantly killed by being thrown from a horse, on the road near Mrs. Willard Wiley's mail box, near Hickory Grove, in the north part of Henry county."

And, finally, William Franklin Guion (1864-1895) "received a kick from a horse at his home near Quarles Friday evening, which caused his death Monday morning. He was 31 years old and an exemplary young man. An Odd Fellow and member of Quarles Baptist Church. Funeral by Rev. Cowan at Hickory Grove and remains taken to Wiley Grove. It was the largest funeral procession ever witnessed from that place, over 60 rigs in the procession."

The stories make the experience real for Allie. "Now the people who have family out here can come out and enjoy it," she says, "and know we're trying to take care of their tombstones. It makes me feel great that we've done this for the deceased and the living family members." ☆

Need ideas for starting a community service project?

COMMUNITY SERVICE IS A KEY COMPONENT OF ANY FFA CHAPTER'S PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES (POA). THE NUMBER OF COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS AVAILABLE IS LIMITED ONLY BY YOUR IMAGINATION. JUST LOOK AROUND. MAYBE THERE ARE SOME CEMETERIES—OR EVEN PARKS, BASEBALL DIAMONDS OR ELDERLY FOLKS' YARDS—THAT NEED SOME EXTRA HANDS FOR MOWING AND MAINTENANCE. IF YOU KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR PROJECTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY, IT USUALLY DOESN'T TAKE LONG TO FIND OUT THAT THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO TO HELP.

PARTNERING WITH CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER GROUPS IS A GOOD WAY TO GET SOMETHING GOING, SO YOU MIGHT WANT TO CONTACT SUCH PLACES AS FOOD BANKS, RETIREMENT HOMES, HOMELESS SHELTERS, HIGHWAY DEPARTMENTS (FOR ROADSIDE CLEANUPS), ANIMAL SHELTERS, SCHOOLS (FOR FARM SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS OR PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS) AND DISEASE-FIGHTING GROUPS LIKE THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY. VISIT FFA.ORG FOR MORE IDEAS. AND, AS ALWAYS, WE LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR CHAPTER'S PROJECTS. SEND US COLOR PHOTOS AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY (OUR ADDRESS IS ON PAGE 1). GOOD LUCK!

WaTeRWoRKS

Irrigation technician

Whether the water is for hydrating lawns, golf courses, office properties or smaller agricultural operations, these specialized technicians install, maintain and repair irrigation systems. The work entails system design and installation, customer interaction, staff supervision, seasonal maintenance and water-flow adjustments.

EDUCATION: A high school education is required. Classes in agriculture and business are recommended.

RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Agricultural mechanics, Turf grass management SAEs; Nursery and landscape CDE.

SALARY: Ranges from $25,000 to $45,000, depending on experience.

EMPLOYERS: Irrigation and lawn care companies, golf courses, various public and private institutions.

MORE INFORMATION: The Irrigation Association (www.irrigation.org)

Barge captain

When grain from American farms needs to be moved, it frequently goes by barge in a river or lake to cities, from where the grain is transferred either to mills or ships bound for foreign markets. Barge captains are responsible for keeping a log of freight and overseeing the loading and unloading of grain and making sure that vessel is balanced.

EDUCATION: A high school education is required. Classes in agriculture and business are recommended.

RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Agricultural mechanics SAEs or CDE.

SALARY: Varies widely depending on experience, but the median earnings of ship and boat captains and operators in 2000 was more than $21 per hour (or around $45,000 for full-time, year-round positions).

EMPLOYERS: Shipping and food processing companies.

MORE INFORMATIDN: U.S. Maritime Administration's "A Career Afloat" website (www.marad.dot.gov/acareerafloat/index.htm)

Agricultural engineer

Water is a constant challenge to agricultural engineers, many of whom focus their careers on solving water-related problems. Some of the things they work on—sprinkler irrigation efficiency, evapotranspiration, soil water measurement, microirrigation, plants' response to water stress and wind power for irrigation pumping.

EDUCATION: A four-year or master's degree in agricultural engineering or a related field. High school classes in agriculture, math and science are recommended.

RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Agricultural mechanics and Emerging agricultural technology SAEs; Agricultural mechanics and agronomy CDEs

SALARY: $36,000 to $80,000, depending on education and experience.

EMPLOYERS: Agricultural corporations, government agencies, universities.

MORE INFORMATION: American Society of Agricultural Engineers (www.asae.org)

Marine mammal trainer

Using a system of positive reinforcement called "operant conditioning," these professionals train whales, walruses, sea lions, dolphins and seals to help educate and entertain people. While the training benefits humans, the trainers spend much of their time caring for the animals and training them to cooperate with veterinarians for health monitoring.

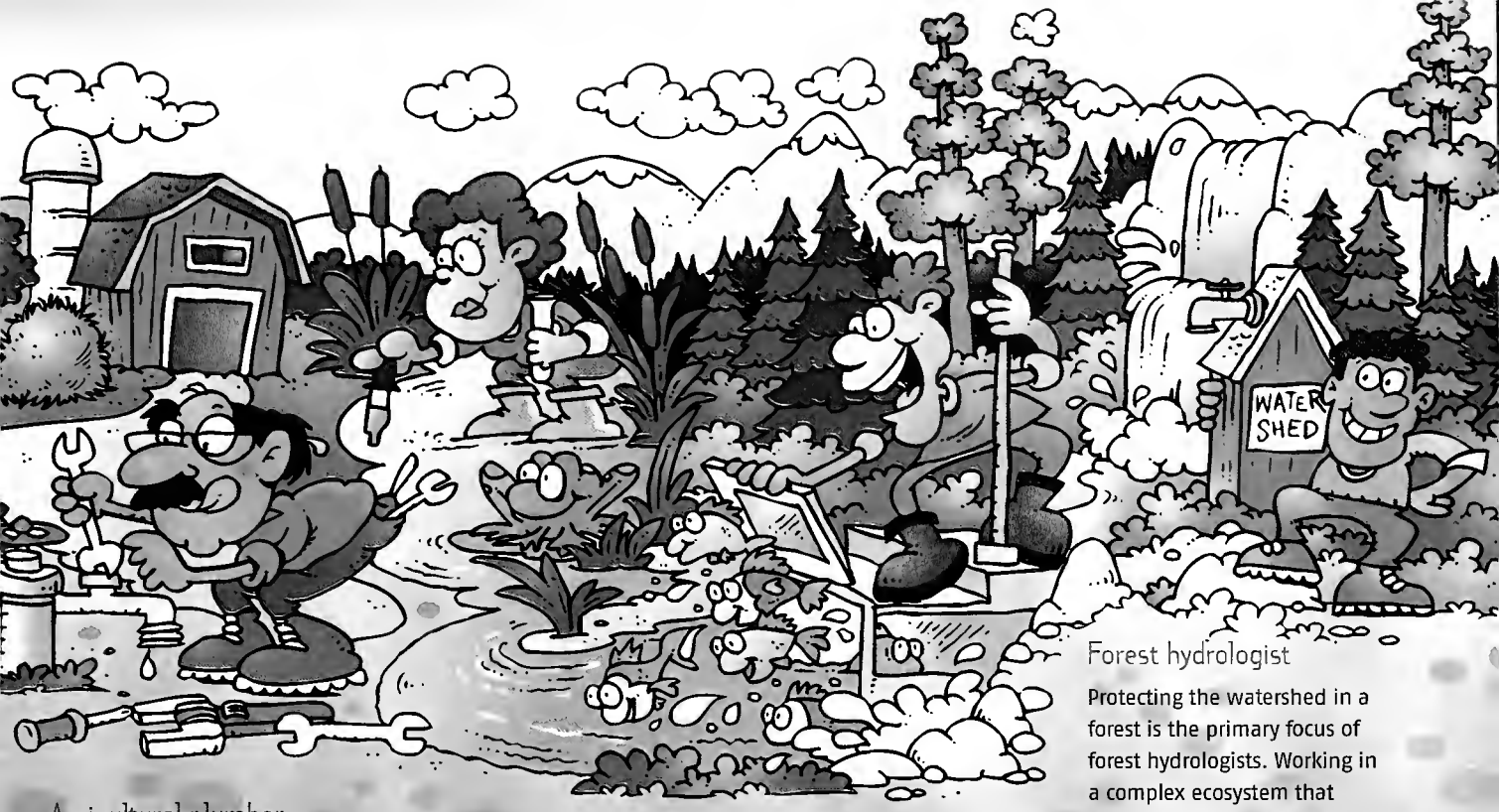
EDUCATION: A two-year, four-year or master's degree in biology, psychology, animal behavior or a related field is required. High school classes in agriculture, science and communications are recommended.

RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Wildlife management or any animal-related SAE; Public speaking CDEs.

SALARY: Varies widely, depending on experience and education, but typically ranges from $25,000 to $60,000.

EMPLOYERS: Zoos, aquariums, sea and amusement parks

MORE INFORMATION: International Marine Animal Trainers Association (www.membersolutions.net/Organization/IMATA/home.asp)



Agricultural plumber

Assembling, installing and repairing agricultural water, drainage and gas systems is the agricultural plumber's job. They do their work in hog confinement structures, dairy barns, greenhouses and other agricultural buildings where pipes bring in water and carry out waste. They also install pipe systems to carry chemicals, oil and other fluids used in agriculture.

EDUCATION: A two-year degree and an apprenticeship with a plumber are required. High school classes in agriculture, math and industrial arts are recommended.

RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Agricultural mechanics SAE and CDE.

SALARY: Ranges from $22,000 to $62,000.

EMPLOYERS: Many plumbers are self-employed; Others work for plumbing and building contractors.

MORE INFORMATION: Search for "agricultural plumber" at the FFA career center (www.teamaged.org/ffa/careers/planner.htm)

Limnologist

These professionals study the structure and function of inland water ecosystems. Relying on their scientific training, they take and evaluate water samples, assess environmental factors, look for trends in aquatic life patterns and try to find ways to make the waterways cleaner and safer for humans, fish and other aquatic life forms.

EDUCATION: A four-year or master's degree in limnology, biology or ecology is required. High school classes in agriculture and science are recommended.

RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Environmental science and natural resources management and Wildlife management SAEs; Environmental and natural resources CDE.

SALARY: Ranges from $30,000 to $80,000, depending on education and experience.

EMPLOYERS: Government agencies, corporations and universities.

MORE INFORMATION: American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (aslo.org)

Hatchery manager

Responsible for the artificial production of fish, hatchery managers must be knowledgeable in all aspects of the process, from egg to release. Hatchery managers are required to meet stocking and production targets, supervise staff, prepare budgets, manage budgets, maintain equipment, feed fish and clean ponds.

EDUCATION: A two- or four-year degree in fisheries, aquaculture, biology, animal science or a related field is required. High school classes in agriculture and biology are recommended.

RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Wildlife management, Environmental science and natural resources management SAEs; Environmental and natural resources CDEs

SALARY: Ranges from $30,000 to $60,000, depending on education and experience.

EMPLOYERS: Primarily hatcheries owned by state and local governments.

MORE INFORMATION: American Fisheries Society (www.fisheries.org)

Forest hydrologist

Protecting the watershed in a forest is the primary focus of forest hydrologists. Working in a complex ecosystem that includes wildlife, humans, plants, trees, roads, streams and ponds, they need to be able to analyze and improve water quality. Since many forests must adhere to strict government laws and regulations, hydrologists work to ensure compliance with these rules.

EDUCATION: A four-year or master's degree in engineering, the natural sciences or a related field is required. High school classes in agriculture and science are recommended.

RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Forest management and products and Environmental Science and natural resources management SAEs; Forestry and Environmental and natural resources CDEs

EMPLOYERS: Government agencies, universities, environmental consulting firms.

SALARY: Ranges from $36,000 to $65,000, depending on education and experience.

MORE INFORMATION: The University of California-Davis provides useful information (http://icc.ucdavis.edu/areas/fs/Hydrologist.html)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

FFA Faces

MEMBERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

WANT TO NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR FFA FACES? SEE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS BELOW (OUR ADDRESS IS ON PAGE 1).

Win a Chevy Trucks backpack!

CHEVY TRUCKS, SPONSOR OF FFA FACES, WILL GIVE EACH FFA MEMBER AND ADVISOR FEATURED ON THIS PAGE A HEAVY-DUTY CHEVY TRUCKS BACKPACK. TO NOMINATE YOURSELF, A FRIEND OR YOUR ADVISOR, MAIL US A LETTER THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR NOMINEE: DATE OF BIRTH, GRADE, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, FFA AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS, EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT MAKES THE NOMINEE WORTHY OF INCLUSION. ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST INCLUDE A COLOR PHOTOGRAPH OF THE NOMINEE.

OKLAHOMA

Tallie Stewart

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

Active in FFA since her first day of high school, Tallie served as vice president and president of the Oklahoma Union FFA Chapter. A respected and honored student, Tallie also played volleyball and basketball and was a Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) member. Tallie is currently serving as FFA northeast district vice president.

KENTUCKY

Carrie Ann Beams

SENIOR

Carrie and her younger brother died tragically in a car accident on their way to school last year. Carrie's mom says her daughter, then a senior, loved FFA. She served as Green County FFA Chapter treasurer, earned her state FFA degree and competed successfully in CDEs.

WASHINGTON

Alex Mann

JUNIOR

Taking a leadership role early in his FFA career, Alex served as chapter president and attended the National FFA Organization's Made for Excellence program last year as a sophomore. In addition to his leadership role in FFA, he's active in community development projects, competes in trapshooting and plays guitar in a band with some friends.

WYOMING

Alfred Spatz

SOPHOMORE

As vice president of the Burns High School FFA Chapter, Alfred knows you have to get involved if you want to succeed. So, he's taken the initiative and has been involved in parliamentary procedure, creed speaking and poultry judging. He has an SAE program with sheep, show lambs and show pigs. Alfred is active in band and sports.

TEXAS

Jessica Murphy

FRESHMAN

As an eighth-grader last year, Jessica made her mark in FFA. She competed in junior chapter meeting conducting and prepared public speaking, placing second in both at area. This star greenhand also competed in state agricultural communications and meat evaluation CDEs. Jessica also has an SAE program involving beef cattle.

FLORIDA

Jaimie Therrien

MIDDLE SCHOOL

This straight-A student was last year's treasurer of the Zephyrhills Junior FFA Chapter. She shows sheep and has competed in the FFA opening and closing ceremonies competition. Jaimie, an animal lover, keeps eight animals at home, including a retired Greyhound and a rabbit. She's also been active in Girl Scouts for seven years.

MISSOURI

Mickey Briscoe

ADVISOR

After 23 years of teaching agriculture and serving as Macon FFA Chapter advisor, Mr. Briscoe recently took a new position as a vocational director. In the classroom, he earned students' respect by sharing his enthusiasm, wisdom, humor and dedication. He taught his students to excel in everything from fruit sales to competitions.

FFA Faces is brought to you by CHEVY TRUCKS, a proud sponsor of FFA for 58 years

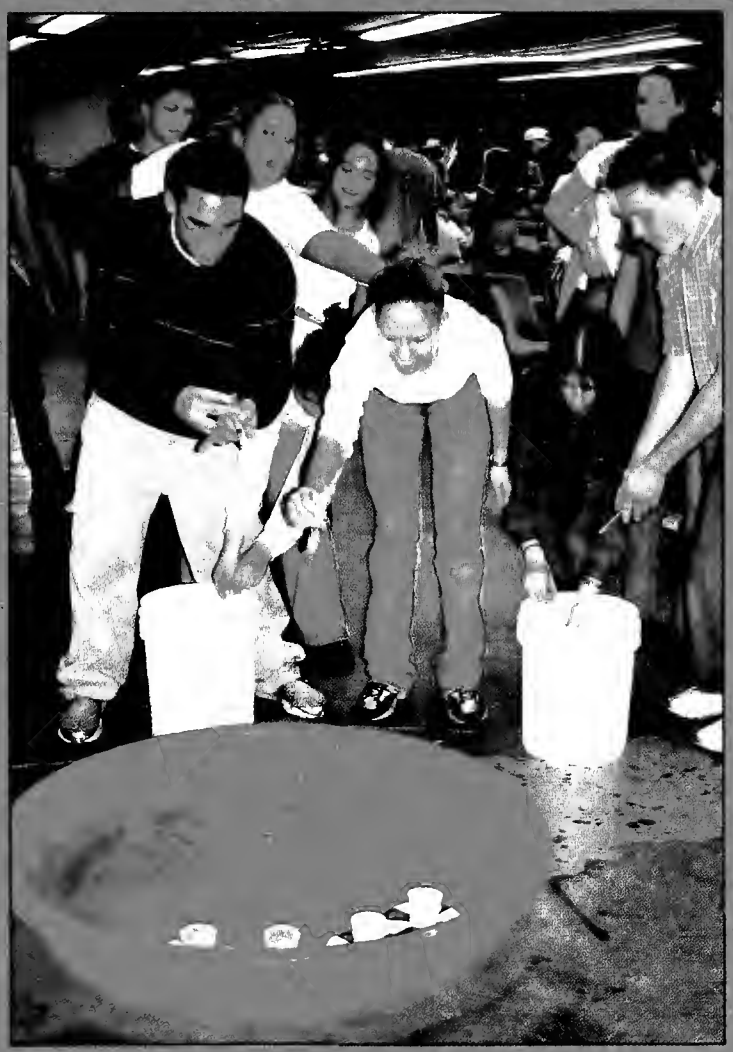
INDIANA FFA

THE IMPACT

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2003

Leadership Development Workshop

Find out why you should attend on page M



Check out what a former FFA member is doing in the military

See page O to learn more

Who earned Big Owl honors in this issue?

Check out page N to see!

What's happening at the Leadership Center?

Details on page J

The Indiana FFA Impact

November / December 2003

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Is your chapter doing something unique? Has someone in your chapter recently received recognition for their outstanding effort? Have a story idea for an upcoming magazine? Contact one of the state officers and share your idea - you and your chapter could be featured in an upcoming issue!

Indiana FFA Staff

John Demerly, *Association Exec. Director*
Christian MacKinnon,
Foundation Exec. Director
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Brian Buchanan, *Program Specialist*
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Michael McDaniel, *S.R. Vice President*
Amber Ebbert, *Treasurer*
Tim Green, *Reporter*
Micah Haltom, *Sentinel*

Upcoming Events

November

October 29 - November 1
76th National FFA Convention
Louisville, Kentucky

21-23 FIRE Conference
Indiana FFA Center

December

1-18 District Degree and Proficiency Application Training Sessions
Various Locations

13 State Executive Committee Meeting
National Young Farmer's Convention

13 Crops, Entomology &Forestry CDEs
Purdue University

January

16-18 Leadership Development Workshop
Indiana FFA Center

31 State Meats and Dairy Foods CDE
Purdue University

Meats and Dairy Foods Events Teach Valuable Skills

By Jessica Geisler

On January 31, 2004, FFA members across the state have the opportunity to participate in two Career Development Events at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. – Meats Evaluation and Dairy Foods Evaluation. Whether you like a good cut of steak or a big bowl of ice cream, these events will challenge you!

The Meats Evaluation CDE puts FFA members' main course knowledge to the test as they evaluate and rank cuts of meat, determine back fat of animals, evaluate beef, swine, and sheep carcasses, and identify various cuts of meat. This event challenges FFA members to properly identify and select quality meat cuts, determine the proper cooking method, and evaluate animal carcasses with an emphasis on herd improvement practices. FFA members are tested on their ability to evaluate retail meat cuts and wholesale meat cuts, evaluate beef, pork, and lamb carcasses, and demonstrate their knowledge relating to the meat science and industry during a 25-question exam.

"Meats evaluation shows you how the meat goes from the farm to the dinner plate," says Justin Kaiser, a senior at Franklin High School. "It's a lot of hard work and memorization, but it helps you out in many things you do, because it takes a lot of skills that can be used in many different CDE's."

If the meat freezer is too cold for you, then consider the Dairy Foods Evaluation where FFA members evaluate milk samples, identify cheeses, test milker units and sediment, and solve problems related to the dairy industry. During this CDE, members judge dairy product appearances, textures and flavors that reflect the quality of the finished product. During this event, members are scored on their ability to evaluate milk samples, identify cheeses, analyze problems in the dairy industry, and answer questions on the consumer aspects of dairy products and marketing. A great side benefit of this contest is that members get to sample ice cream to evaluate its body, texture, and flavor.

"Dairy Foods was something new and fun to try. It was a great experience because you actually get to eat what you judge," says Andrew Pursifull, a senior at Southern Wells High School.

Whether in the freezer or the refrigerator, the Meats Evaluation and the Dairy Foods Evaluation both prepare FFA members for careers after high school. Whether you are interested in a career in one of these areas, or just looking to gain a broader understanding of the meat and dairy industries, one of these CDEs might be right for you.

Indiana FFA John Deere Toy Tractors are here!

The Indiana FFA Toy Tractor will make a great Christmas gift for the FFA-lover or toy tractor collector! Priced at only $25.00 each, these tractors are a great deal! The proceeds go directly to the Indiana FFA Foundation to help fund awards and FFA Programs.

To learn more, visit the Tractor Supply Company on the Web at www.tractorsupply.com or visit one of the stores in your area. Local stores can be found in the following cities: Anderson, Angola, Columbia City, Corydon, Decatur, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Franklin, Greencastle, Greenfield, Greensburg, Greenwood, Indianapolis, Kendallville, La Porte, Lafayette, Madison, Muncie, New Castle, Noblesville, Plainfield, Plymouth, Richmond, Terre Haute, Valparaiso, Vincennes, Wabash, Warsaw, and Westfield

Attention Chapters!

Many local TSC stores are willing to partner with your chapter for fundraising efforts such as car washes. Also, if you're looking for a part-time job, consider applying at your local TSC store.

Don't miss your chance to purchase a piece of FFA memorabilia! These won't last long so get to your local Tractor Supply Company today!

Tim Green...

Stationed by the Flag

A few thoughts about Tim...

"Tim's a good guy and always seems to make everyone else laugh."

Mason Boicourt
Friend and Crothersville Chapter Member

"Tim is truly a unique young man. He and I got to be good friends through our district officer team, and I can say that he is a pleasure to work with. He is a very sharp individual, and is a true friend to all. I look forward to being able to work with Tim again when he is at Purdue!"

C.J. Fleenor
Former District Officer Team member

"Tim has worked very hard to get to where he is today. He was a great leader in our chapter, always there when we needed him the most. I'm very proud of him for setting his goals high and achieving them through hard work and dedication."

Karissa Glenn
Friend and Crothersville Chapter Member

"Tim took a lot of things upon himself. He truly went above and beyond."

Linda Maxie
Former FFA Advisor from Crothersville

"Tim grew up with my husband. He's a really great guy. We went to the movies and hung out a lot. Tim danced with me at my wedding."

Stacy Barr
Friend

"Tim has always been a sweetheart - a truly wonderful kid. In elementary he was shy and quiet, in middle school he started becoming outspoken, and in high school he just said what was on his mind."

Judy Maschino
Tim's Mom

Fast Facts about Tim Green

Parents: Rick and Judy Maschino
FFA Chapter: Crothersville FFA
Advisor: Mrs. Linda Maxie
Favorite Board Game: Clue
Favorite Smell: Fruit Loops
Favorite Comfort Food: chewy cookies
Favorite Sounds: crickets and music

Tim's FFA Timeline

Age 15

Tim joined the FFA

Went on chapter camping trip

Age 16

Elected Chapter Reporter

Won 2nd place in District Essay Leadership CDE

Elected State Chorus Librarian

Age 17

Lost Chapter Vice President Election

Elected Chapter Reporter

Won State Ag Communications Proficiency

Elected District XI Reporter

Received 3rd place in Traditional Scrapbook at State Convention

Age 18

Lost Leadership Ambassador at District Convention

Elected State Reporter

Strain Your Brain

Use the clues below to determine what each of the phrases is saying. This one should really test your creativity and ability to think outside the box! Good luck!

1.

2. L+ +ning 2

3. +on+ g+ +th

4. A +

5. +

6. + + cess

7. Living 2

8. +ing 2 L+ -F

9. Pre+

+er+

10. +a FFA

11. -f + ing 2 L+5-F

To check your answers, visit www.indianaffa.org.

Learning to Give

By Tim Green

What is one thing that all FFA chapters have in common? Here is a hint: It is an important part of a chapter's program of activities...the answer is community service, of course! Community service is a critical aspect of every chapter across the nation, but in Indiana, community service comes with a special incentive. Project: IMPACT was created in 1997 to recognize chapters for their hard work, dedication and involvement in their communities.

Community service can serve many purposes. It can strengthen the local community, assist less fortunate members of the community, recognize and honor traditions within the region, and just create a general goodwill between the people in a community. As a side benefit of a community service project, FFA chapter often receive recognition from community leaders and local and regional media outlets. Community service projects demonstrate that today's youth do care about what is going on and want to be involved in making their communities a better place to live.

"After we had done our annual FFA food drive for a few years, the community knew all about it and didn't hesitate to donate," said Brittany Shoaf of the Hope FFA. "Students also learn the importance of community service and that they can do their part as an upstanding citizen. It's an awesome feeling to help out the residents of our community."

Over the years, there has been broad spectrum of community service projects that have earned top honors in Project: IMPACT. Projects ranging from nursing home visits to Habitat for Humanity projects, and from toy and food drives to Adopt-a-Highway clean-up efforts have ranked in the top four of this prestigious event.

The Shenandoah FFA chapter took home first place honors in the event last year. A large part of their project was a Snug Harbor Group Home visit, which was a visit to a local group home during the holiday season. The FFA members played games with the residents and passed out gifts donated by community members. Last year's second place finisher was the Crothersville FFA Chapter with their community-wide Easter egg hunt for all residents age 12 and younger. Projects are not limited to just the ones listed above. Anything that your chapter does to help the residents of your community is deserving of the Project: IMPACT award.

The application process is simple. The project or projects submitted for evaluation must be completed between April of one year and April of the next calendar year. Entries are evaluated upon the number of hours volunteered, the number of FFA members working with the community partners involved, and a maximum two-page description of the project. Also included in the application are no more than five pages of supporting materials, such as newspaper clippings or photographs of the projects described. The chapter with the best community service program receives a plaque and recognition at the State FFA Convention and the Indiana State Fair. The top chapter also receives a visit from the Indiana FFA State Officer Team to help with their community service projects.

It does not take an award-winning program to become successful in the eyes of the community. All community service programs are important to the welfare of chapter and community. "We don't do it for the recognition," said Shenandoah advisor Mr. Steve Hickey. "We do it to bless the ones that need our support."

Your high school principal, FFA advisor(s), and chapter president must certify your Project: IMPACT entry. Entries must be postmarked by April 1. A Project: IMPACT application is available at www.indianaffa.org. For more information, contact Ms. Abby Dougherty, program specialist, at (317) 878-4000, or the Indiana FFA State Reporter at inffareporter@yahoo.com.

Preparing for College During High School

By Shane Hageman

Planning the classes you want to take and finding time to participate in extracurricular activities can be a challenge to high school students. However, the benefits of taking the time to prepare for college can be very rewarding both during high school and after graduation. One college advisor recommends high school students prepare for college by learning good study habits, signing up for challenging classes, and taking the SAT or ACT exam. The ideas are simple, but actually applying them in your life can be challenging.

LeeAnn Williams, an undergraduate advising coordinator in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University, encourages students to practice good study habits. She advises students that study habits can make or break a college GPA.

"Our students struggle the most with study habits because often high school was easy for them," said Ms. Williams.

She advises that one way to learn to study better is to train yourself to read assignments thoroughly. Learning to outline chapters and take good notes are great skills. With busy schedules, it may be hard to find the time to get everything done as well as read and outline. This is where time management comes in. Set out a specific time each day to do nothing but homework and hold yourself accountable to that time. It can be a huge benefit to get in the habit of studying in high school because that will be one less thing to worry about once college begins.

Taking challenging courses in high school will prepare you for college. Pushing yourself in high school will help you develop a work ethic for your coursework, which will definitely be used in college. Challenging courses can also affect the possibility of being admitted into a specific college. College prep courses tend to be very challenging and by preparing yourself for these challenges in high school, it will be easier to deal with those same challenging when you get to college. When thinking about what classes to take, Ms. Williams said that Purdue stresses the importance of advanced math and science classes, as well as any honors courses. Foreign language classes are also considered good college prep classes.

Taking advanced math and science classes will not only help you prepare for college, but it will also assist in SAT and ACT preparation. Take the SAT and ACT early to allow an opportunity to retake it if your score is not adequate. One way to avoid a lower-than-desired score is to study for the tests and utilize practice tests that are widely available. Taking the SAT and ACT early is very important, but early application to your college of choice is equally important. Ms. Williams stressed that programs will close once they have reached their admissions limits.

The benefits of preparing for college while you are still in high school are valuable for both your high school and college careers. Take the time to develop good study skills and time management habits. Challenge yourself with the courses you take in high school in order to develop a good work ethic, and also to increase your chances of getting into the college of your choice. Study for and take the SAT or ACT test so that you allow yourself enough time to retake the test if necessary. Take these steps now to prepare yourself for success in college.

Start preparing today to get yourself ready for life after high school. If your plans include attending college, there are several steps you can take to make the transition easier.

Don't wait!

The Trip of A Lifetime

FFA members travel to Brazil to experience culture, agriculture

By Micah Haltom

On July 17, 2003, three FFA members and one advisor traveled to Brazil to learn about foreign agriculture. Those FFA members fortunate enough to be chosen for the trip included: Ian Corby Gilbert, a Vincennes University freshman from White River Valley High School; Matthew Metzger, a senior from Whitko High School; and Betsy Robinson, a sophomore from Clinton Prairie High School. Mr. Bill Fox, advisor of the Clinton Prairie FFA Chapter also traveled with the group of students.

While in Brazil, the students experienced Brazilian culture and agriculture first hand through farm tours. They visited about two schools every day. Each of the students were hosted by six or seven families during their three-week stay in Porto Allegro. When they first arrived, they experienced mountains, waterfalls, and rolling plains.

"It could just be the type of person that I am, but I try to take every opportunity that I am given," said Matthew Metzger. "If the FFA is putting an experience like this out there, students need to take advantage of it. I just wish more students knew about it and could have that same opportunity."

The FFA members visited a state agriculture university. In Brazil, all state universities are government funded and students must pass difficult exams to earn one of the 30,000 openings. These state-funded universities are tuition free to those accepted. Private universities are much more expensive than state universities, plus there are no private agriculture universities.

During farm visits, the students visited about 12 different farms ranging from 30 to 25,000 acres. They also toured other businesses in the agricultural industry such as a meat processing plant and a leather factory.

The students learned how different our agriculture industries are, but also found some similarities. In Northern and Central Brazil, the agriculture is different. The tropical climate allows farmers to have three growing seasons, typically two seasons of soybeans and one season of corn. Southern Brazil has a similar climate to Indiana with four seasons. Brazil's elevation is close to sea level and they can easily build dams to flood areas. This makes rice one of their biggest crops. The government is supportive of these farms because rice is a major export that brings money to the government. Brazilian cattlemen also have a large market. In this country, cows are not grain fed, but graze on rye grass. Brazil's grazing land also makes sheep production popular. There is a high demand for wool, but the demand for sheep mead is very low.

Although Brazil does not have an organization like the FFA for high school age students, it does have an organization similar the Young Farmers, called Farsul. The mission of the organization is to pass agriculture information and new practices along to young farmers from 20 to 30 years old.

To earn the opportunity to travel to Brazil, students completed an application in May. The application consisted of basic information, as well as their personal preferences so that the students could be matched with a host family. They then had to complete two essays on why they wanted go on the trip and what they hoped to learn or bring back from the trip.

To find out more information about the next international trip, keep an eye open in the *Impact* or visit www.indianaffa.org.

In the Spotlight!

One thing that the FFA strives to teach FFA members is to be ambassadors for agriculture. To put that skill to the test, the Indiana FFA has created a new segment in the magazine called, "In the Spotlight!" This segment gives FFA members a platform to share their views about FFA and agriculture.

In each issue of the magazine, a new Spotlight Question will be posted. To share your thoughts on the question, send an e-mail to inffaspotlight@yahoo.com. In your e-mail, tell us your name, age, grade in school, and the high school you attend. Also, you must submit a digital photo in order for your response to be considered for inclusion in the magazine. Just attach your digital photo to your e-mail message.

The Spotlight Question for this issues is:

What is your favorite FFA activity and why?

Matt Fry, 18
North Putnam FFA

"Livestock judging is my favorite because it helps in the development in skills for my future plans to raise livestock."

Megan Stahl, 17
White River Valley FFA

"Livestock judging is my favorite because I think that it is easy. There are so many people involved so I get to meet a lot of people."

Summer Yelton, 18
South Ripley FFA

"National Convention is my favorite because we wake up at four in the morning to ride down to Louisville and we get to meet a lot of new people a have a lot of fun. The bus rides are always exciting too!"

Next Issue's Spotlight Question:
What plans do you have to make the new year one of your best year's to date?

To share your answer to the Spotlight Question, send an e-mail to inffaspotlight@yahoo.com. Don't forget to attach your picture!

Indiana FFA Leadership Center Update

By Christian MacKinnon,
Foundation Executive Director

Dear Friends of FFA,

In recent weeks, I have received several questions about the condition and situation regarding the main lodge at the Indiana FFA Leadership Center. As many of you know, several trusses collapsed on April 29, 2003, resulting in the loss of nearly 1/3 of the dining hall roof. Obviously, we have since been unable to use the dining hall.

After the collapse, much discussion ensued regarding the plan to renovate the damaged section of the building. Our first priority was to determine if our insurance policy would cover the loss. We also had to determine how to use existing renovation funds and if outside resources were going to be necessary. The following was the result of much discussion:

· Farm Bureau agreed to pay $156,000 via the insurance settlement – this allowed the structure to be restored to pre-April 29th condition.

· Van Rooy Reconstruction is currently finishing the truss placement and is due to finish on or before October 31.

· The Aspen Group (FBI Buildings, Inc.) donated $7,500 worth of trusses.

· Their donation enabled us to use some of the existing renovation funds for the following:

o Adding a 16' cathedral ceiling in the dining hall

o Updating the lighting system

o Air conditioning and heat in the Executive Meeting Room and Dining Hall

o New paint on walls

o Raising the chimney exhaust for higher roof line

·Updated Electrical system in both rooms

Because of the collapse and subsequent renovations, you will now enjoy an air-conditioned facility in the heat of the summer and a more efficient heating system in the winter. Phase 1 of the renovation, the repair and renovation of the Executive Meeting Room and the Dining Hall, is nearly 90% complete. Momentum is building toward starting Phase 2, which includes relocating the offices in order to free up those lodge rooms for other uses.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the newly renovated (partially) Leadership Center. Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to call or email.

Regards,

Christian L. MacKinnon

Christian MacKinnon
(317) 878-5560
cmackinnon@mindspring.com

Summary of Insurance Settlement and Expenditure Estimates

Revenue and Available Funds

Settlement from FB Insurance	$156,000
Donation from Aspen/FBi Buildings	7,500
Renovation Fund	40,000
TOTAL	**$203,500**

Expenditures

Demolition and remodeling by Van Rooy Construction	$156,000
Air conditioning and heating	20,000
Termite eradication	4,000
Cathedral ceiling addition	7,500
TOTAL	**$189,000**

Balance to remain in the renovation fund ***$14,300***

Farm World Newspaper Believes in the FFA

The Indiana FFA is blessed by the many corporate and individual sponsors who chose to partner with our organization. In this new segment, we will highlight one of these partnerships.

In this inaugural sement, the partner we have chosen to highlight is Farm Work Newspaper. This company has really increased their involvement with the FFA in the past several years. Thank you, Farm World, for your continued support of the Indiana FFA.

Full Name of Company: Farm World Newspaper

Number of Employees: 82

Location of Company Main Office: Knightstown, Indiana

Years in Business: 48 years

Industry: Farm Publication

Brief History of Company: Farm World was founded in 1955 by the Mayhill family as a regional paid weekly farm newspaper and has grown to a Midwest weekly farm newspaper. The coverage area now includes Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Michigan, and Tennessee. The publication is a paid subscription weekly farm newspaper with more than 35,000 paid subscribers. Farm World is highly regarded for the classified section, as well as the auction ads. Editorial coverage includes both Midwest national agricultural issues, and also features stories and pictures of Midwest farming communities.

Number of former FFA members: 4

How has Farm World chosen to support the Indiana FFA? Farm World sponsors one of the morning sessions at the State FFA Convention and also hosts the FFA State Convention Judges Luncheon. Other ways Farm World has become a top donor is through their sponsorship of the Advanced Leadership Development Camp and various state awards programs. The organization also provides judges for various county, district and state judging contests, and participates in the annual Indiana State Fair Golf Tournament. Most recently, Farm World donated $1.00 to the Indiana FFA for every paid car that came through the gates at their first annual Farm World Expo in Terre Haute, Ind.

Length of time Farm World has been an Indiana FFA partner: 8 years

What value do you think the FFA provides to high school students? "FFA develops leadership and social interaction skills. Judging events develop cognitive decision making skills."

Joe Hodson
Rush County Farmer, Former District IX President, and American Degree Recipient

If a high school student were interested in a career with Farm World, what advice would you give them? "Communication skills are a must when working in either the sales or editorial department of a newspaper. You need to be able to talk and connect with your customers and readers. You also need some basic writing skills, so you can write an article or help customers create ad copy. Get to know the product that you want work with – in our case, read the newspaper. Having a background in agriculture is a definite plus in this industry, but not a necessity. The ability and a willingness to learn about agriculture and the newspaper are definite musts."

Megan Kuhn
Assistant Editor of Farm World Newspaper

If a peer organization asked you why you choose to support the Indiana FFA, what would you tell them? "The FFA is a great youth organization that allows students to learn how to communicate and gain confidence in themselves. FFA encourages members to get involved in community service in their community. Interacting with other leaders in the FFA, the local community, and the business sector, combined with the challenge of participating in the many Career Development Events and workshops all promote the development of future leaders of our great country."

Toni Hodson
Farm World Advertising Sales Manager

What makes the agricultural industry unique? "Even though it is entrepreneurial in nature, the industry is still dependant upon the weather, markets, and government. It's a great challenge!"

Joe Hodson
Rush County Farmer, Former District IX President, and American Degree Recipient

A Note from the Foundation Executive Director
"The Farm World organization has become the model partner for FFA. Not only has this brand new partner given of their treasure, but many in the organization have donated their precious time and talent to see their investment work in the lives of FFA members in Indiana."

Christian MacKinnon

The FFA Tradition

By Mikki Marshall

Can you imagine what the FFA was like 50 years ago? For Gene Penn, State FFA president from 1952-1953, life was a whirlwind of opportunities, including leadership conferences, visits with students, and other events to promote agriculture and the FFA. Mr. Penn has had a very full and rewarding life, which began with his involvement with the FFA.

Mr. Joe Metzger was the FFA advisor at South Whitley High School when Mr. Penn joined the FFA in 1947. While at South Whitley, he was involved in numerous activities, but always found time for the FFA. Mr. Penn enjoyed all aspects of the FFA but he especially enjoyed the evaluation teams. He was active in livestock, crops, and dairy evaluation, and earned the honor of high individual at the state dairy evaluation event.

After his tenure in the South Whitley FFA chapter, Mr. Penn decided to run for a state FFA office. In 1952, he was elected Indiana FFA State President at the 25th State Convention. At that time, state officers attended college as well as held their leadership position.

"I don't know how we kept up with our schedule, but we did," said Mr. Penn. "But I would not have traded that year for anything."

When asked what some of his most memorable moments were as a state officer, many came to mind. However, Mr. Penn quickly narrowed the field down to two. First would be the opportunity to give his retiring address at State Convention. "That will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I will never forget." He also recalled his chance to announce the new national officers at the 1952 National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Penn is pictured in the second row during a photo at the National FFA Convention.

While attending Purdue University, Mr. Penn majored in agribusiness, a decision based on his experiences in the FFA. He would later serve in the Korean War and then work for the National Cash Register Company.

Mr. Penn commented on how the FFA has changed so much since his involvement in the FFA. "When I was a member, there were all boys, and we all lived on a farm. Now, females equal the males and we are quite more diverse."

While many things have changed, one still stays the same. The FFA continues to have tremendous alumni and supporters such a Mr. Penn. Thank you for all of your work with the Indiana FFA; you are truly making an impact.

At left, Mr. Penn poses with fellow FFA members.

At right is a recent photo of Mr. Penn.

Project Grants to Promote Healthy Lifestyles

By Tim Green

Has your chapter had to pass up opportunities because you did not have enough funding? Does your chapter want to implement a new activity, but don't want to cut another program to free up the funds to do so? Or is your chapter simply interested in a little healthy competition? No matter what you answer, the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation (ITPC) is offering grants to chapters interested in promoting healthy lifestyles in your local community.

The Healthy Lifestyle Chapter Challenge grants allow chapters to earn funds to help implement projects at the chapter level. The only stipulation to the grants is that the chapter activity must have a healthy lifestyles focus or at least display a healthy lifestyle message in their activity.

"Chapters can really benefit from this new grant process," said Brian Buchanan, ITPC Program Specialist. "The program is designed to help chapters start new programs when they might not otherwise have the funds to do so."

A couple of programs have already been implemented using Chapter Challenge grants. The Northeast Dubois and Forest Park FFA chapters developed a project for the Dubois County Fair. Members and advisors of the two FFA chapters worked together to develop a program where the citizens of Dubois County and surrounding counties could learn facts about agriculture and healthy lifestyles.

The two chapters combined efforts to create a putt-putt golf course with corresponding agriculture-related questions. With the provided funding, the two chapters built this nine-hole putt-putt golf course. Attached to each hole was a station to answer questions. The question they answered depended on the number of strokes it took the visitor to complete the hole. For example, if the player hit a hole-in-one, the question they had to answer was easy. The more strokes it took to get the ball in the hole, the harder the question became. This use of the Chapter Challenge grant allowed these two chapters to spread the message about both the FFA and healthy lifestyles in a way that was both informative and enjoyable.

"Our golf course was such a big hit that next year it will need re-painted and re-carpeted because it was worn out!" said Mr. Steinmetz, advisor from Northeast Dubois.

To learn how your chapter can earn a Chapter Challenge grant, contact Brian Buchanan, program specialist, at tobaccofreeffa@yahoo.com.

Calling all future leaders to the Leadership Development Workshop!

The wintertime in Indiana can be long and cold. Why not liven your winter up by doing something for your chapter?

How can your chapter become stronger? Where can you go to learn the skills your officer team will need to lead your FFA chapter into the future? What does it take to lead a premier FFA chapter? Find out the answers to these and other questions at the Leadership Development Workshop (LDW), held January 16-18, 2004, at the Indiana FFA Leadership Center.

LDW provides chapter officer teams the chance to set team goals and develop a plan for achieving those goals. During this weekend workshop, your team will become stronger as you learn more about leadership and team dynamics. Members will learn to organize, run meetings, communicate, prioritize and work as a true team. Talk to your advisors and officer team members and make plans to attend the 2004 Indiana FFA Leadership Development Workshop!

At LDW, student teams will have the chance to test out the teamwork skills they learn at the workshop.

The Big Owl

By Jessica Geisler

Farming, real estate, construction, and classic cars are only a few of the interests of Mr. Vernon Konradi, FFA advisor at East Central High School. Now in his 28th year at the school, he lists teaching high school students about agriculture as one of his greatest passions.

Mr. Konradi got his start in agricultural education when he decided to take an agriculture class in the 7th grade, which led to six more years of ag classes and the FFA at Sunman High School. While in the FFA, he served as chapter president twice, received his state degree, and earned the Star Chapter Farmer award for his work on his 200-acre dairy farm that he ran with his mom and brother.

While in high school, he never planned to be an ag teacher, but support and encouragement from his principal and teacher made him decide to go to Purdue University to major in agricultural education. After graduating from college, his former teacher approached him about teaching at Sunman. When Mr. Konradi approached the Sunman High School superintendent about the possibility, he was offered the job on the spot. This was his first teaching job after graduating, and he has been teaching there ever since.

"My favorite part about being a teacher is the kids," says Mr. Konradi. "Agricultural education is so diversified, with a lot of hands on work that compliments the classroom education. Students really learn from it."

At East Central, students can study anything from ag mechanics to animal science. Chapter activities include many community service projects, such as placing and landscaping "Welcome to St. Leon" signs outside the school's town, and providing service to the Sunman/St. Leon area for two days in October. Members also enjoy cooking for the greenhand luncheon in October, and then having the favor returned to them when the greenhands cook the upperclassmen breakfast. Chapter members also enjoy attending summer challenge and other leadership conferences.

The biggest event of the year is their chapter banquet, where members are responsible for making the bases and then mounting the engravings on all of their plaques. The banquet ceremony is usually attended by more than 300 people.

Mr. Konradi's advice for students is to set high goals, and work toward them. He encourages his students to work toward reaching their goals, and enjoys watching them experience personal growth as FFA members and as leaders.

"The best thing about teaching is having student find a career after high school," Mr. Konradi said. "I enjoy watching them become successful by using what they learned in the FFA."

Would you like to nominate your advisor for The Big Owl? If you think your advisor is deserving of this recognition, contact one of the state officers to tell them why. You and your advisor may be featured in an upcoming issue!

A Leader's Views on Leadership

By Michael McDaniel

On a daily basis, many American military members put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms of every citizen of the United States. One of these military members has a special bond to the Indiana FFA.

Major Chris Wagoner is a former Indiana FFA State Officer, and now serves his country flying Apache attack helicopters and overseeing all aviation operations from the southern tip of Africa to the Mediterranean Sea north of Iraq and Kuwait. Everyday he makes decisions that could affect thousands of others. Even when lives are not on the line, he never shies away from the difficult decisions in life. Some of the hardest choices Major Wagoner had to make in his life were those he made as a teenager.

At the age of 18, Major Wagoner made a life-altering decision. Just like every high school senior, he had to choose a future. The military offered to pay for college, and he made the decision. By making that one choice to join the Army, he changed his life forever. Major Wagoner has now served in the Army for 21 years and has served in three conflicts or wars. The Army paid for his degree in aeronautical science, and later his master's degree in education administration.

"Too many young folks cut themselves short by waiting for college and then never going," says Major Wagoner. "I realize that not everyone will pursue a life goal that requires a college education, but it opens up so many opportunities that are lost without a college degree."

All success in life comes at a price. Major Wagoner has a history of making sacrifices for his career and country. Often, his travel overseas for his career separates him from his family.

"My wife Jenny and I both know that if American's like me will not make sacrifices for the good of the nation, there will be nothing left to sacrifice for" says Major Wagoner. "I want a safe future for my family and grandchildren. That has to be paid for in time and in efforts spent now."

As a major, he works with a dedicated staff that teaches him as much as he teaches them in return. Even with such a lofty position, Major Wagoner's views on leadership stand firm.

"Position does not make a leader," he says. "All of us lead in some direction. Some people lead through their positive influences. Some lead astray through poor actions. Some lead backwards through obstacles or personal agendas. We are all leaders, it's just a matter of which direction you choose to go."

Major Wagoner believes that leadership is an inherent and learned trait. The common thread is the desire to do what is right. Even the most influential people are still influenced by others. The most powerful influence in the major's life is his wife Jenny. His military hero is General Griffon, a man he served under during Desert Storm.

Regardless of your goals in life, learn to power of being a leader and the cost of making sacrifices. These two traits will serve you well in any chosen career.

Do you have any questions that you would like us to ask Major Wagoner? If you are intested in a specific aspect of his job or his life in the military, contact Michal McDaniel with your questions. In future issues of The Impact we'll try and answer your questions.

Earning for the FFA and your chapter

By Michael McDaniel

Did you ever sell lemonade as a kid? Have you ever gone door-to-door selling cookies? If you have an entrepreneurial spirit, or just the desire to make a little money for your chapter, then you should read on! The Indiana FFA annual citrus sales drive will be October 1 – November 27, 2003. This event gives you an opportunity to re-live childhood memories of lemonade stands and door-to-door cookie sales, all while earning money for the FFA.

FFA chapters across Indiana have been selling citrus for more than 30 years. Fruit sales usually are one of the top fundraising events for Indiana chapters. While many chapters sell the standard navel oranges, tangelos, and grapefruits, other chapters have broadened their list of items for sale. Some chapters also sell beef jerky, calendars, cookbooks, peanuts, Thanksgiving turkeys, and other various products.

"Selling fruit has taught me people skills and given me the chance to meet new people in my community," says Caitlin Leu, a member of the Prairie Heights FFA Chapter.

FFA fruit sales are not just a moneymaker for the local chapters. The Indiana FFA Foundation also benefits, and at some schools, FFA members earn a profit from their sales. The 10 different fruit companies involved in the fruit sales drive each donate $0.60/bushel to the Foundation. Over the past 30 years, the Indiana FFA Foundation has earned more than $750,000 through fruit sales!

Through participation in fruit sales, students gain valuable business experience. By selling fruit from door to door, FFA members practice sales and speaking skills, money management, responsibility, and build personal relationships within their communities. In fact, a few chapters in Indiana, like the North Decatur Chapter, print sales books and make marketing plans so members can increase sales and maximize their customer clientele. Fruit sales might be the activity that opens the door to a host of other opportunities.

Mr. Leon Crowe, North Decatur FFA advisor and state fruit sales coordinator, agrees. He has led North Decatur to 29 years of success, selling more fruit every year than any other chapter in Indiana.

"This is a great opportunity for student's to grow, and earn money for the FFA organization in the process," Mr. Crowe says. "Everyone's a winner."

Thank you to all of the FFA chapters who participate in the statewide citrus sales program! The money earned from your hard work allows the Indiana FFA to continue to offer leadership and career development activities, as well as develop new programs to meet the growing needs of our membership. Thank you!

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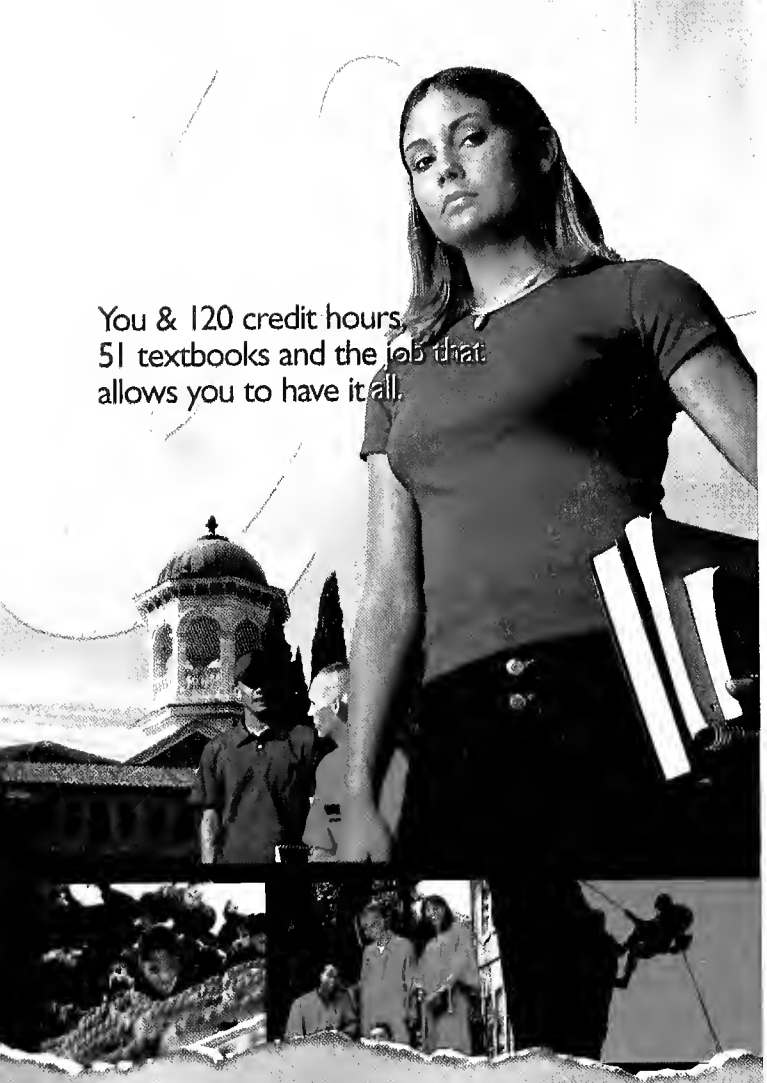

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Career Q&A

FFA NEW HORIZONS ANSWERS YOUR CAREER QUESTIONS

QUESTION: Hey, I'm trying to find out the different job options in the fields of ag communications and ag leadership. I know I want to major in one of these, but I'm really interested to know the different jobs associated with them. Thanks!
Nicole Scott, Bell Sr. FFA, Florida FFA Association

ANSWER: Nicole, The field of agricultural communications has a wide range of possibilities available to you. You could get involved in any of the following fields because they all involve communicating about agriculture: print journalism (as a writer, editor, graphic designer, photographer or sales representative), radio (as a news anchor, writer or sales representative) or advertising/public relations (as an account executive, graphic designer, writer or event planner). Agricultural leadership, on the other hand, is not generally considered a stand alone career path. Instead, it's a culmination of skills that, when combined, can make you a leader in whatever type of career you choose. Our advice is to take advantage of all the leadership opportunities FFA offers, then follow that up in college. Your school or other agricultural organizations might offer workshops, classes or seminars that will help you develop the leadership skills you need.

Read all about it!

CHECK YOUR LIBRARY AND THE INTERNET FOR THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES:

Books

The American Almanac of Jobs and Salaries
by John Wright

Occupational Outlook Handbook
by the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics

Websites

FFA Career Center
The National FFA Organization agricultural careers database
www.ffa.org/careers/index.html

Occupational Outlook Handbook
The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' career database
http://stats.bls.gov/oco/home.html

Peterson's Education Portal
http://www.petersons.com/

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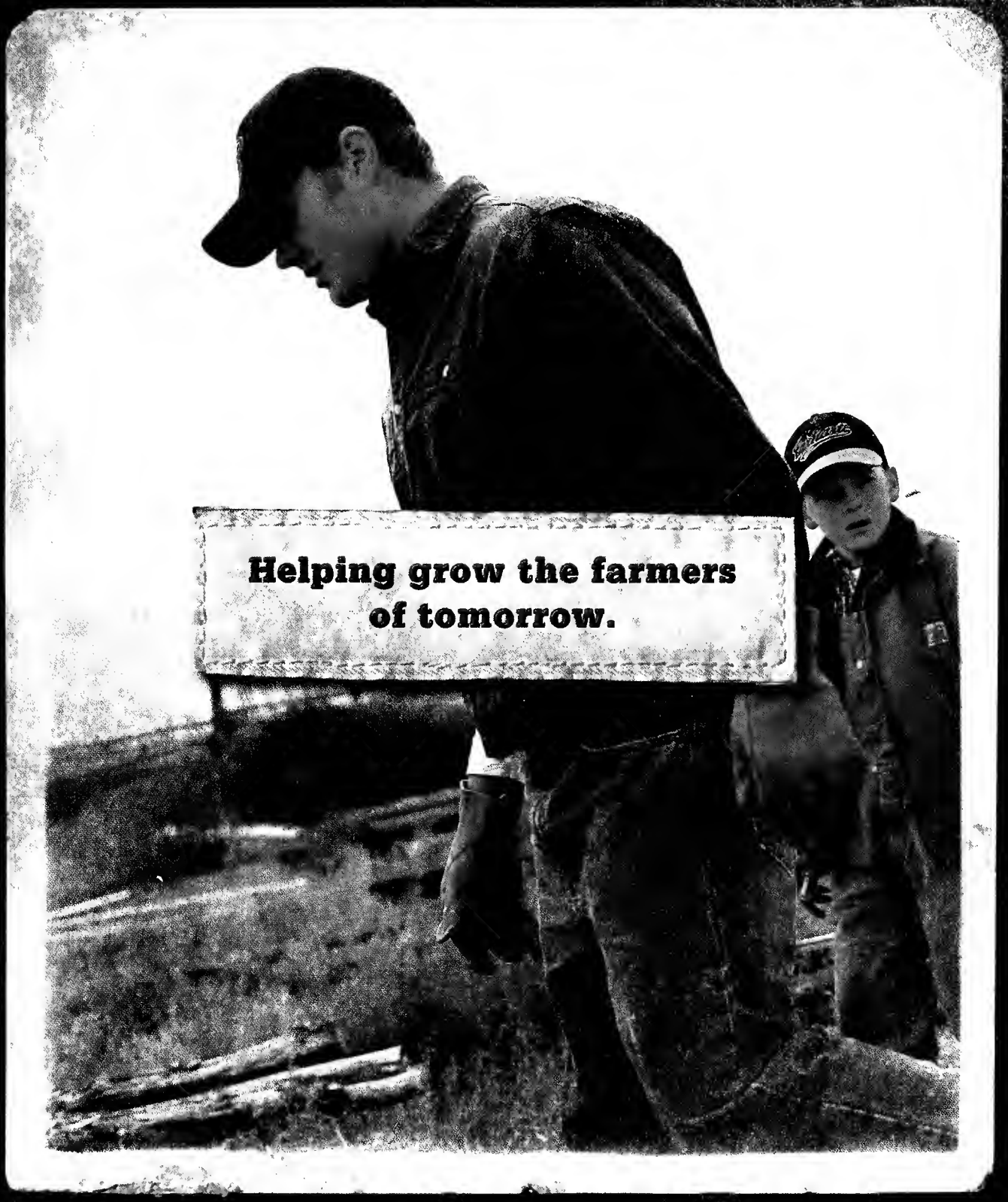

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Meeting the President

National and state FFA officers, in Washington D.C. for the National FFA State President's Conference, meet President Bush and Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman

On a muggy July day when, among other things, he briefed the media about the latest news from Iraq, President Bush took some time to meet with FFA members at the Old Federal Building, just across the street from the White House.

The FFA members—a group made up of national and state FFA officers—were in town for the National FFA State Presidents' Conference (SPC). Joined by Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, the President listened as National FFA President Tim Hammerich stood at the podium for opening remarks.

"George W. Bush is the 43rd President to lead our nation," Tim said. "He is an avid supporter of agriculture and the FFA. Above all else, he is a man of integrity, character and values. He epitomizes the National FFA motto—Learning to do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live and Living to Serve."

After speaking for a few more minutes, Tim introduced the President, who was obviously moved by the introduction. As he took the podium, Bush jokingly said, "Tim read that just as I wrote it."

As President Bush spoke, he voiced his support for the agricultural industry and the role it plays in national security, producing an abundant and safe food supply and nurturing strong family values. He also urged FFA members to take responsibility for their actions and serve something greater than themselves, adding that all leaders have an obligation to help others. The President encouraged the students to mentor a child and seek ways to put hope back in the hearts of Americans, as "millions of single acts of kindness will bring about change."

Before Tim's introduction and the President's remarks, FFA Southern Region Vice President Dustin Clark introduced Secretary Veneman, who admitted that it's intimidating to speak immediately after a national FFA officer.

Veneman gave a broad overview of the USDA and spoke specifically about forest protection, food safety and pesticide use, homeland security, rural development and foreign markets. She left FFA members with something to ponder on their trips back home: "The future of this industry is in young people like FFA members." ★

FFA goes to Washington every summer

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION SPONSORS TWO LEADERSHIP EVENTS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL EACH SUMMER? HERE'S THE SCOOP ON BOTH:

STATE PRESIDENTS' CONFERENCE (SPC)

SPC IS A WEEKLONG LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (USUALLY DURING THE LAST WEEK OF JULY) FOR TWO STATE OFFICERS FROM EACH ASSOCIATION HELD ANNUALLY IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THIS ADVANCED LEADERSHIP TRAINING BUILDS ON THE FIRST TWO COMPONENTS OF THE STATE FFA OFFICER LEADERSHIP CONTINUUM. IN ADDITION TO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, PARTICIPANTS DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING OF PARTNER RELATIONSHIPS AND BEGIN THE INITIAL PHASE OF THE NATIONAL DELEGATE PROCESS.

SPC IS SPONSORED BY CHEVY TRUCKS AND GMAC AS A SPECIAL PROJECT OF THE NATIONAL FFA FOUNDATION.

CHEVY TRUCKS HAS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY FOR DECADES BY BUILDING THE MOST DEPENDABLE, LONGEST-LASTING TRUCKS ON THE ROAD. CHEVROLET HAS BEEN A PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE NATIONAL FFA FOR 58 YEARS THROUGH A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS SUCH AS SCHOLARSHIPS, PROFICIENCY AWARDS, CAREER SHOW AND CONVENTION CONCERTS, AS WELL AS THE STATE PRESIDENTS' CONFERENCES. EACH YEAR CHEVROLET HELPS THE 461,000 NATIONAL FFA MEMBERS ACHIEVE THEIR MISSION: STUDENT SUCCESS.

WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (WLC)

EACH YEAR, MORE THAN 2,300 YOUNG PEOPLE TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON D.C. TO ATTEND WLC TO DEVELOP THEIR CHARACTER AND RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING SKILLS, LEARN ABOUT THE HOTTEST NEW AGRICULTURAL CAREERS, MAKE FRIENDS, SET A VISION, VISIT THEIR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND TOUR OUR NATION'S CAPITAL. IN ADDITION TO THE STUDENT SESSIONS, THERE ARE SPECIAL SESSIONS FOR TEACHERS ON LEADERSHIP TRAINING, CAREERS AND CREATIVE TEACHING TECHNIQUES.

THE WEEKLONG CONFERENCE (YOU CAN PICK SESSIONS THROUGHOUT JUNE OR JULY) FOCUSES ON TRAINING STUDENTS HOW TO BE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE IN THEIR CHAPTERS, SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES. PART OF BEING AN EFFECTIVE LEADER IS STRONG COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS, SO STUDENTS WORK INFORMATIVE, PERSUASIVE AND APPRECIATIVE COMMUNICATION STYLES.

CHARACTER AND VISION ARE ALSO STRESSED. THE CONFERENCE HELPS STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THE COMPONENTS OF CHARACTER, AND HOW THEY CAN SERVE AS ROLE MODELS TO OTHERS. PLUS, STUDENTS ARE HELPED TO UNDERSTAND THAT PERSONS OF INFLUENCE HAVE A VISION AND THAT THEIR PERSONAL VISION SHOULD BE BASED AROUND THEIR INTERESTS, EXPERIENCES AND VALUES.

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survey

When we print the results, we'll show the top five vote-getters in each category. In our next issue, we'll recognize the FFA chapters that send in the most surveys.

AGRICULTURAL CAREER _____

FFA FUNDRAISER _____

SCHOOL LUNCH FOOD _____

SCHOOL SUBJECT (BESIDES AGRICULTURE) _____

BOOK _____

FEMALE ACTOR _____

MALE ACTOR _____

BAND/SINGER _____

MALE ATHLETE _____

FEMALE ATHLETE _____

MOVIE _____

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

CHAPTER _____

EMAIL _____

Mail in your What's Hot survey today.

Our address is on page 1.

Here is the solution from the puzzler on page 26 of this issue.

H	A	S		A	J	A	R		C	A	M	E		
A	R	E		D	O	L	E		A	R	I	D		
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	B	A	R	G	E	C	A	P	T	A	I	N		
			Y	E	S		K	O	S					
S	A	V	E			H	E	R		B	U	S		
P	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T	B	U	S	H		
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			S	O	N		P	C	T					
F	I	N	A	N	C	I	A	L	A	I	D			
I	D	O	L		E	L	S	E		C	A	B		
L	E	N	T		R	I	T	A		E	V	E		
L	A	O	S		S	E	A	N		D	E	N		

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what's hot

Here's how FFA members from across the U.S. voted in our last poll. You'll find our new survey on page 20.

All surveys sent to FFA New Horizons are used in tabulating the above results. The Lodi FFA Chapter from Lodi, California, sent in the most surveys.

TOP 5 AGRICULTURAL CAREERS

veterinarian
farmer
agriculture teacher
florist
welder

TOP 5 FFA FUNDRAISERS

candy sale
poinsettia sale
cookie sale
fruit sale
meat sale

TOP 5 SCHOOL LUNCH FOODS

pizza
baked potato
french fries
chicken
burrito

TOP 5 NON-AG CLASSES

math
p.e.
english
art
science

TOP 5 COUNTRY ACTS

tim mcgraw
lonestar
toby keith
rascal flatts
darryl worley

TOP 5 OUTOOR ACTIVITIES

swimming
horseback riding
fishing
hunting
off-roading

TOP 5 NON-COUNTRY ACTS

blink 182
eminem
nelly
metallica
trapt

TOP 5 FEMALE ACTORS

julia roberts
jennifer lopez
sandra bullock
reese witherspoon
jennifer aniston

TOP 5 MALE ACTORS

adam sandler
vin diesel
josh hartnett
jim carrey
ben affleck

TOP 5 MALE ATHLETES

kobe bryant
michael jordan
shaquille o'neal
brett favre
nomar garciaparra

TOP 5 FEMALE ATHLETES

venus williams
anna kournikova
mia hamm
serena williams
lisa leslie

TOP 5 BOOKS

harry potter books
the bible
holes
the lord of the rings
little women

TOP 5 MOVIES

the matrix reloaded
billy madison
x-men
vin diesel's xxx
sweet home alabama

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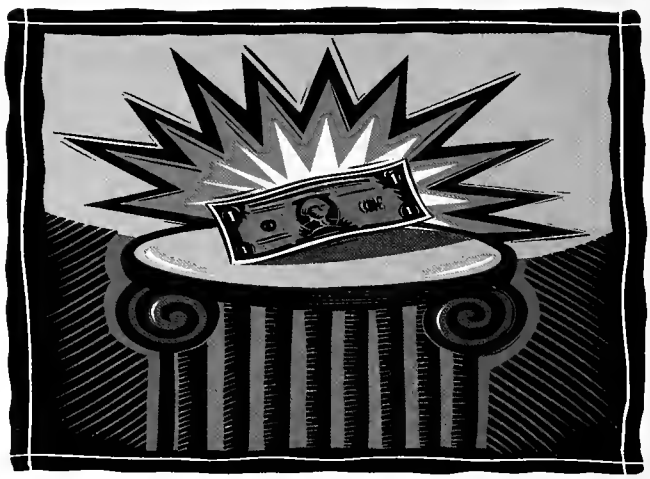
yourmoney

TIPS ON MANAGING YOUR CASH

BY CHRIS HAYHURST

Financial Aid

How to get the process started



If you're a high school junior or senior planning on attending college, you've probably already given some thought to a few school options. After you pick the schools you'd most like to attend, the next step is financial aid. You'll have a lot of forms to fill out. The most important of these is a need analysis document, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, as it's more commonly known.

The best way to tackle this form is to apply online at the U.S. Department of Education's financial aid website (www.studentaid.ed.gov) or through the school you'll be attending. You can fill out a paper form, but there are advantages to going online: First, there is less chance of mistakes because of an answer verification process. Second, you can check on the status of your application from any Internet computer. Third, your application is processed faster.

One-stop shopping

College and state loan programs frequently base their aid decisions on this form, too. So, for many of you, this will be your one-stop shop for financial aid. Some colleges require additional forms, so check with their financial aid experts.

The FAFSA is used to determine how much of your college expenses your family can afford to pay. Your parents or guardians will need to provide income and tax figures, so plan ahead and set aside some time with them to fill out the form.

The online version of the form will let you know if you forgot to fill anything out, but you still need to read the instructions carefully because the process can be confusing.

Once the form is processed, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR). This information is also sent to the schools you listed on your FAFSA application. The schools will then determine your eligibility and financial need based on this report.

The key figure on the SAR is the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Used by colleges to determine your eligibility for loans and need-based grants, this figure represents the amount of your college expenses you and your family will be expected to cover.

If you're considering a school that costs $8,000 per year and your EFC is $5,000, the school will try to offer you a financial aid package equal to the $3,000 difference. At a $25,000 school, your EFC is still $5,000, so the school will try to come up with a package to cover the $20,000 difference.

The package

If a school offers you aid, your will receive a notice outlining your financial aid award package, which can consist of any combination of loans, grants, scholarships or work-study.

Because they don't need to be repaid, grants and scholarships are the best types of financial aid. While there is no clear distinction between the two, a scholarship can generally be thought of as an award for merit, while a grant is generally awarded based on need.

The major federal need-based grants include the Federal Pell Grant and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant. Talk to your high school counselor or college financial aid administrator about other available grants.

The most common loans for undergraduates are the low-interest subsidized and unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans. Try for the subsidized loan first—this mean the government pays the interest on the loan while you are in school.

Many schools participate in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFEL), which allows you and your parents to choose your lender or bank. Other schools may require you to use their designated lender.

The terms and conditions of the individual loans will vary, so always be sure to read the fine print. ☆

Extra credit

GMAC, AN FFA SPONSOR, HAS DEVELOPED A WEBSITE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE FUNDAMENTAL CONSUMER EDUCATION INFORMATION RELATED TO VEHICLE FINANCING AND LEASING. WHETHER YOU'RE LOOKING AT BUYING A NEW VEHICLE OR NOT, IT OFFERS SOLID INFORMATION, INCLUDING EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND INFORMATION ON BUDGETING AND ESTABLISHING CREDIT. THE WEBSITE ALSO OFFERS OTHER RESOURCES RELATED TO FINANCIAL EDUCATION. HERE'S THE ADDRESS:

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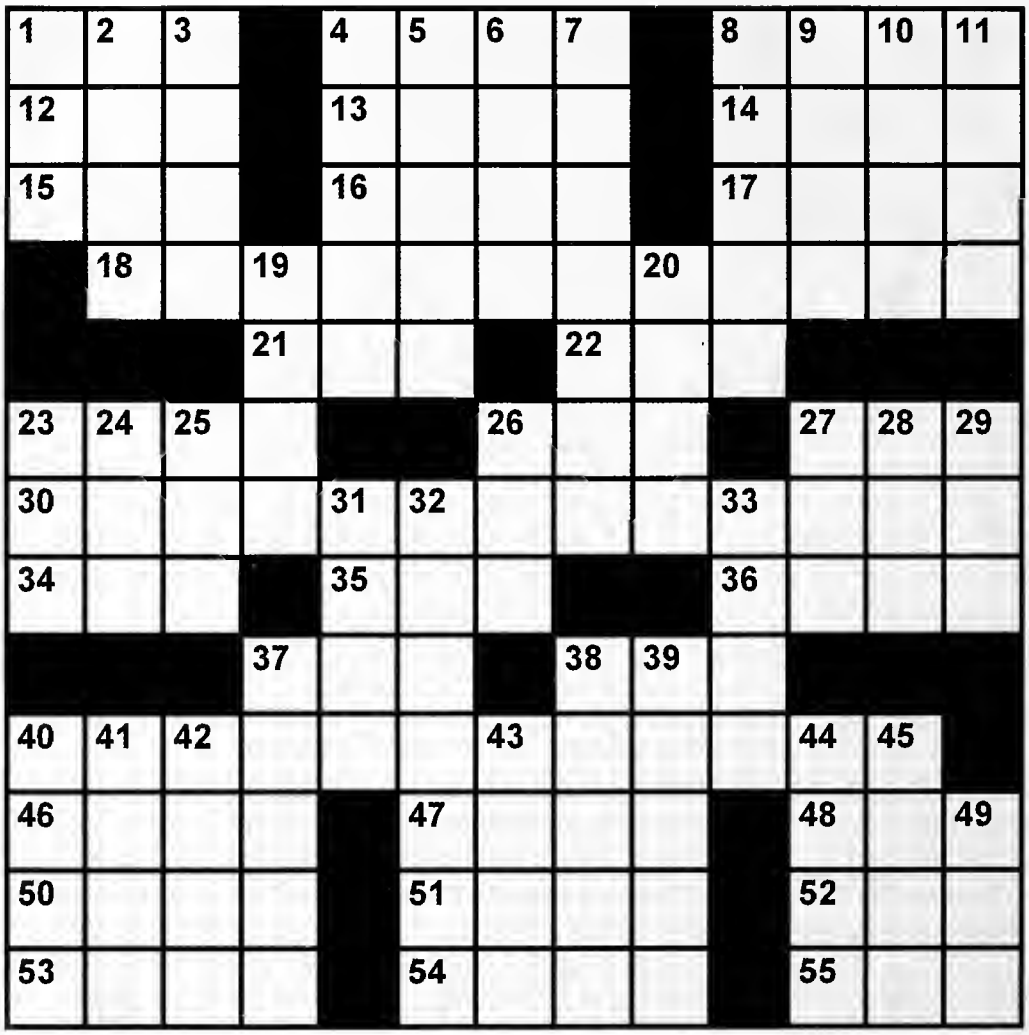
puzzler

BY MATT GAFFNEY



Across

1 Possesses
4 A little bit open, like a door
8 Showed up
12 "You ___ my best friend!"
13 Pineapple company
14 Hot and dry
15 What a price goes on
16 Without ___ (dangerously)
17 Actress Russo
18 Job for someone in charge of shipping grain
21 Opposite of no
22 Boxing results, for short
23 Come to the rescue
26 Not his
27 What many ride to school
30 He met with FFA members in July in Washington
34 Enjoyed lunch or dinner
35 Male sheep
36 They may be blue or green or brown or hazel
37 Not daughter
38 %: abbr.
40 You might receive it to attend college
46 "American ___" (popular TV show)
47 "What ___ can I say?"
48 Taxi
50 Period before Easter
51 Old-time actress Hayworth
52 Christmas ___
53 Country next to Vietnam
54 Actor Penn
55 Place for lions

Down

1 It goes on your head
2 Person from Mecca
3 Video game name
4 Old saying
5 FFA Central Region Vice President J.J. ___
6 Actor Baldwin
7 Got back
8 Shopping ___ (you find them in supermarkets)
9 Neighborhood
10 ___-Me (Austin Powers' buddy)
11 Garden of ___
19 Some grains
20 City on the water
23 Place to lose weight
24 Class where you can be creative
25 Letter two after "tee"
26 Part of a skirt
27 Purchase
28 Find a job for
29 "Quiet down!" sounds
31 What skillets are often made from
32 Ballerinas, for example
33 Test version, to computer programmers
37 Adds some NaCl
38 Spaghetti, macaroni, etc.
39 Make shipshape
40 Color in
41 Thought
42 Something you shouldn't do
43 "Would ___ to you?"
44 ___ tea
45 ___ Matthews Band
49 ___ & Jerry's ice cream

You'll find the solution to this issue's "Puzzler" on page 20

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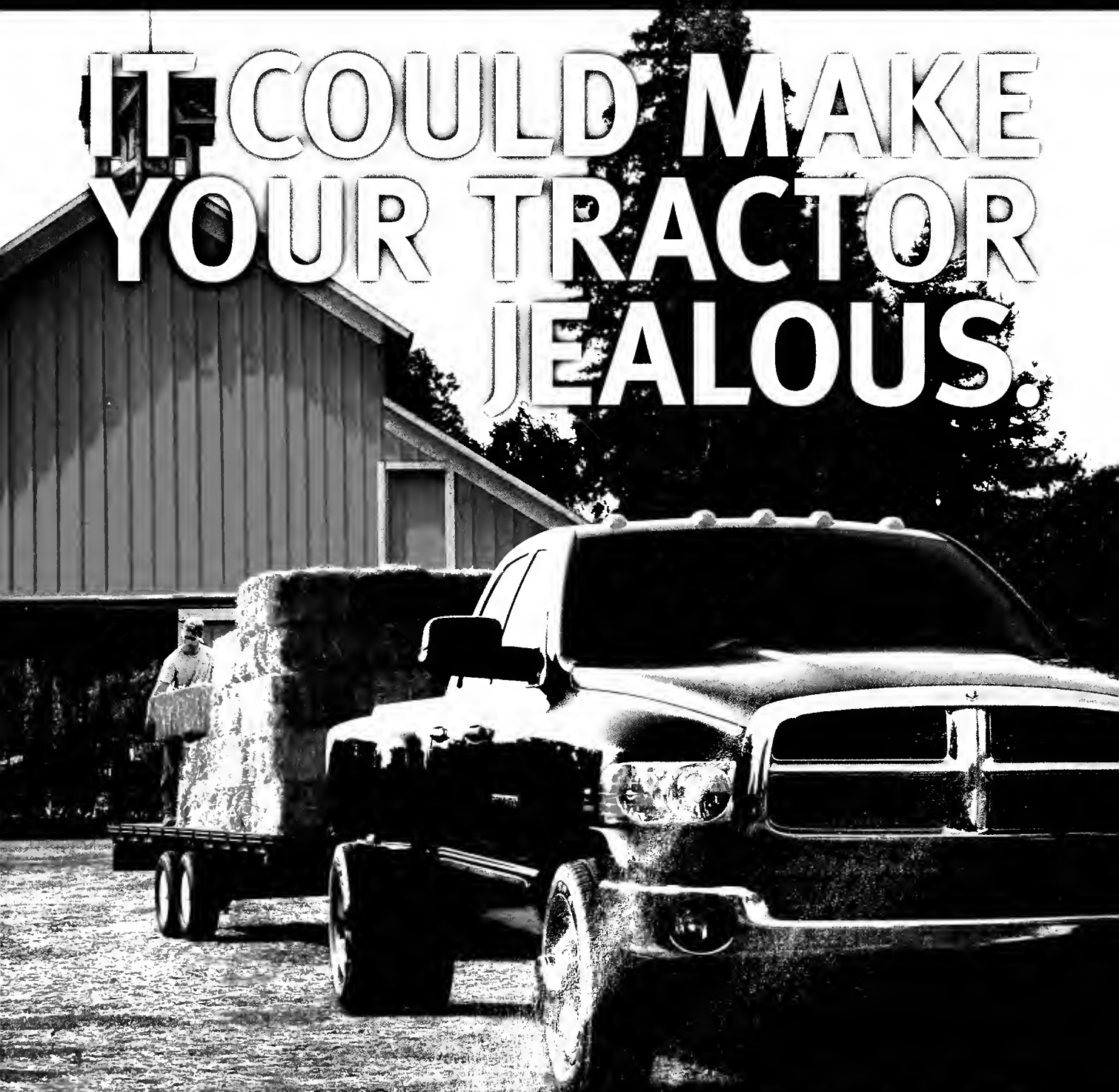

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last laff

Q: What has holes on it from top to bottom and front to back and side to side, but can still hold water?
A: A sponge.
Jacob Bastian
ALTOONA, ALABAMA

Q: In a flock of geese, why is one side of the V longer than the other?
A: Because there are more geese on that side.
Dan Bouc
PIERSON, IOWA

Q: What do you call a deer with no eyes?
A: No eye deer.
Hector Garceau
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Q: What is H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O?
A: H2O (water).
Taylor Schulte
MILAN, ILLINOIS

Q: What happened to the plant on the windowsill of the math classroom?
A: It grew square roots.
Alicia McKenzie
CHICESTER, ARKANSAS

Q: How do you make a rattlesnake cry?
A: Take away its rattle.
Crystal Mabe
MCBEE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Q: What did the big chimney say to the little chimney?
A: You're too young to smoke.
Justin Hooks
KOUNTZE, TEXAS

Q: What kind of food do witches eat at the beach?
A: Sandwiches.
Allen Chernovskiy
MCCOMB, OHIO

Q: Why did the orange stop in the middle of the road?
A: Because it ran out of juice.
Jay Fuller
COLCORD, OKLAHOMA

Q: What do a shoe store and a professional boxer have in common?
A: They both contain a lot of socks.
Margaret Leonardi
FERNDALE, CALIFORNIA

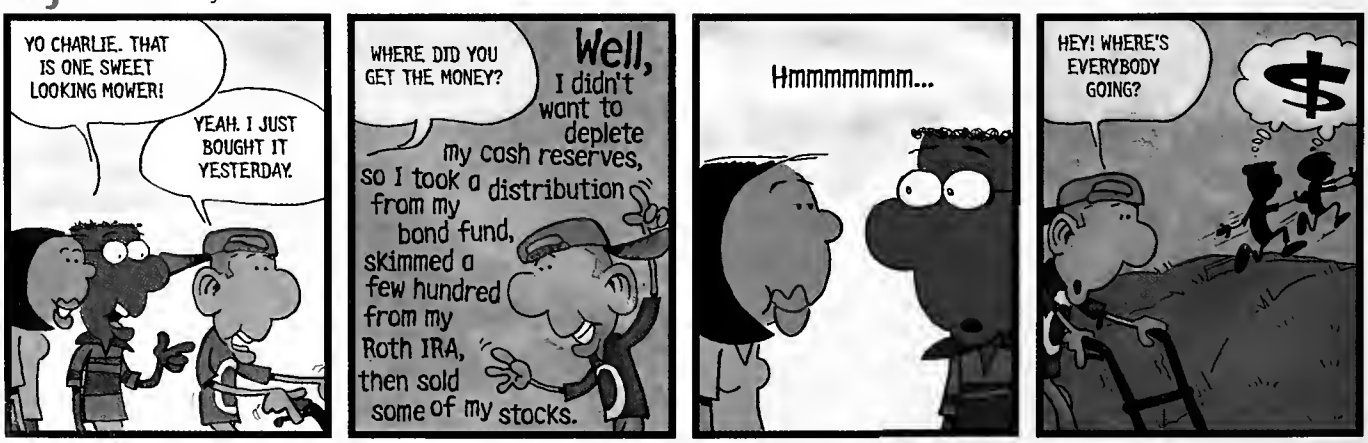
Q: What is brown and sticky?
A: A stick.
Gaylen Givens
BIG SANDY, MONTANA

Q: Where does a horse live?
A: On Mane Street.
Keely Cosgrove
SWEET SPRINGS, MISSOURI

Q: What's the best part about being a reindeer?
A: The frequent flyer miles.
Joselyn Marie Gregory
ELLENBURGH, NEW YORK

WE'LL PAY FIVE BUCKS FOR EACH JOKE SELECTED ON THIS PAGE. IF WE RECEIVE DUPLICATE JOKES, THE PERSON WHO SENT IT IN FIRST GETS THE CASH. BECAUSE WE RECEIVE SO MANY JOKES, WE CAN'T ACKNOWLEDGE OR RETURN YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS. WRITE YOUR JOKE ON A POSTCARD OR SHEET OF PAPER AND MAIL IT TO US (YOU'LL FIND OUR ADDRESS ON PAGE 1).

Agrinuts by Jim Bradshaw and Michael Bettendorf



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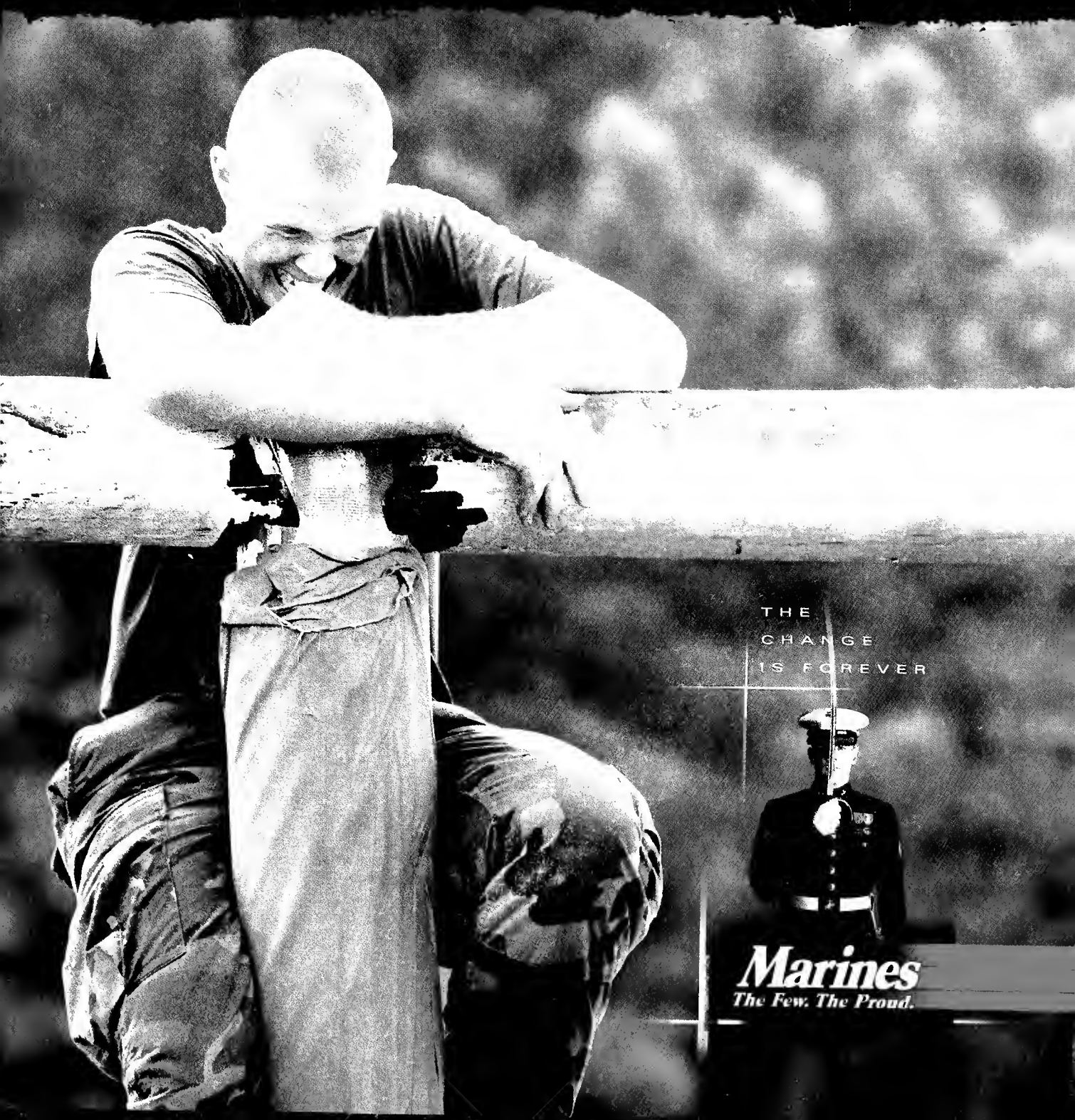

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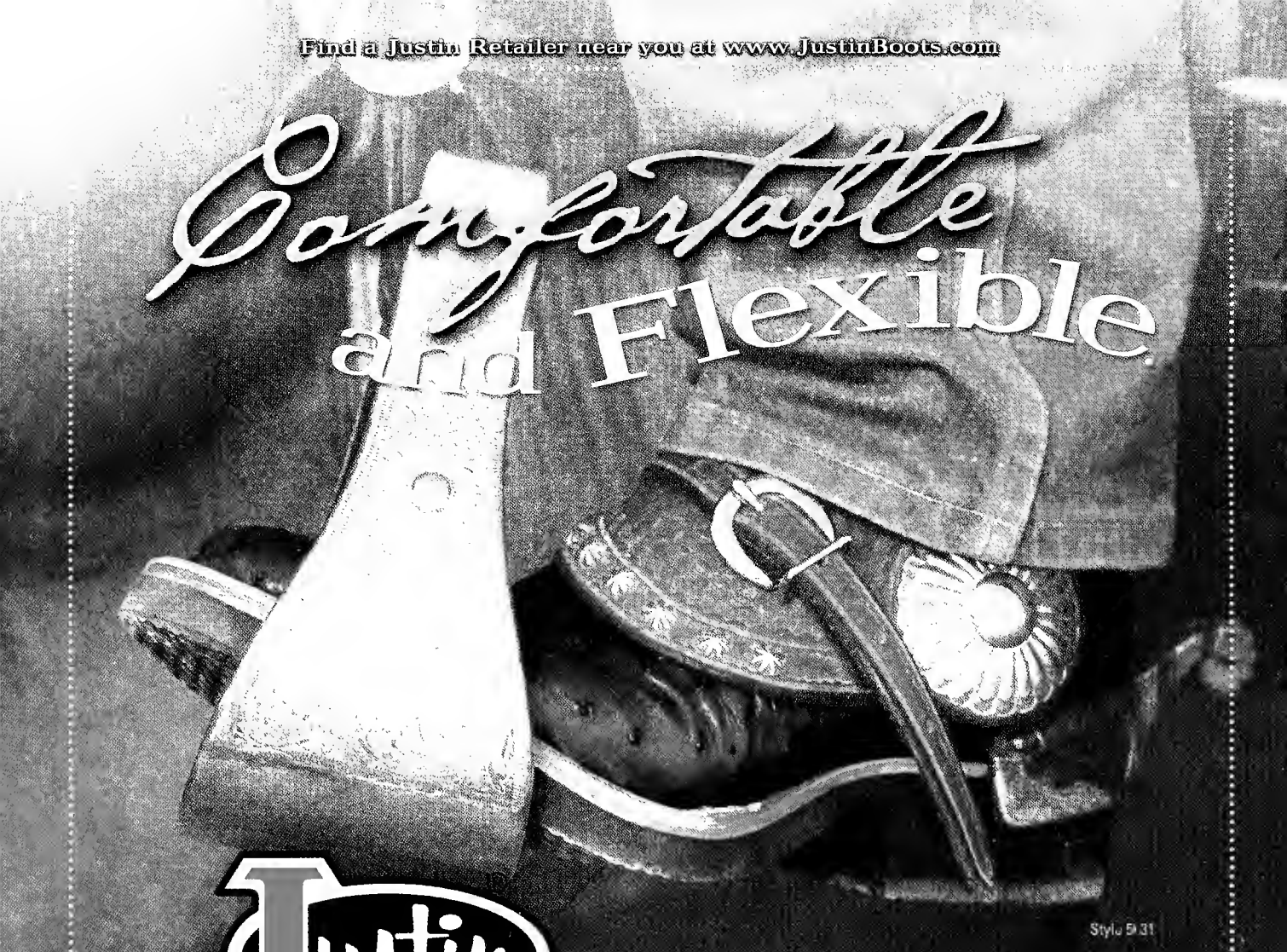

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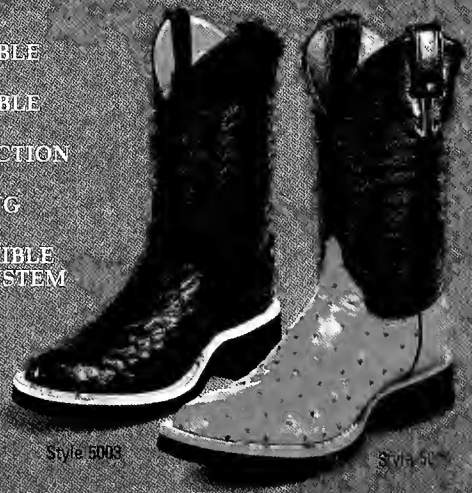

Style 5003

Style 50[illegible]

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